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OF

Hamilton and Clay Counties

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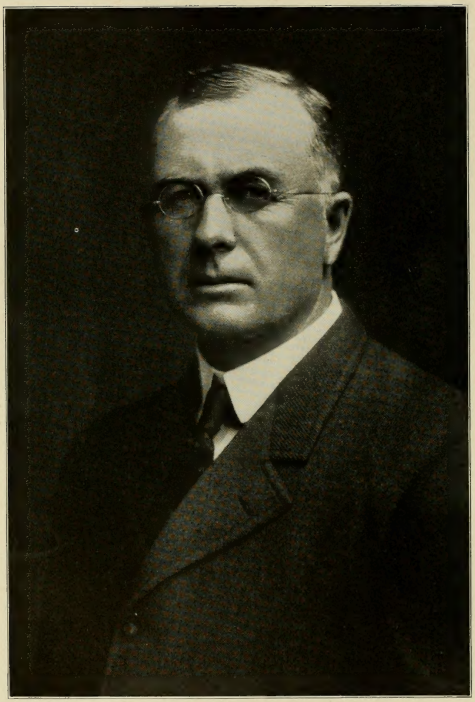
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W. I. FARLEY

BIOGRAPHICAL

W. I. FARLEY

While W. I. Farley initiated his business career in Aurora by entering the real estate field in which he has long operated extensively and successfully he is now well known as one of the prominent financiers of Nebraska, connected with many of the substantial banking institutions of the state. He is a man strong of purpose, sagacious and far-sighted, industrious and enterprising and in the course of a long and active career has never stopped short of the successful accomplishment of his well defined plans.

Mr. Farley was born in a pioneer log cabin on the farm of his father in Clarke county, Iowa, April 27, 1855. The father was a native of Morgan county, Ohio, and in Monroe county, Indiana, wedded Ann J. Curry whose birth occurred in County Sligo, Ireland. They removed to Clarke county, Iowa, in the spring of 1851, Mr. Farley having previously purchased land warrants whereby he secured land at a dollar and a quarter per acre. His realty holdings became very extensive and he won a place among the foremost business men and successful citizens of Clarke county. Both he and his wife died on the old homestead after contributing in large measure to the substantial development, progress and improvement of their community. They reared a family of nine children of whom but three are living: Mrs. Mattie Headle, who is residing near Ontario, South Dakota; W. I., of this review; and Jennie Lane, who owns and occupies the old homestead farm in Iowa. The parents were members of the Protestant Methodist church and the father was always a republican in his political views, giving stanch support to the party. He served as the first justice of the peace in Clarke county and was ever keenly interested in matters pertaining to the general welfare.

W. I. Farley was reared to farm life, sharing with the family in the hardships and privations incident to the settlement of the frontier and bearing his part in all the work pertaining to the improvement of the fields. In his youth he attended the country schools for about three months each year and finally had the opportunity of pursuing a course in the high school at Osceola, Iowa, through three six months' terms. This completed his educational training but in the school of experience he has learned many valuable and practical lessons. Taking up the profession of teaching he was identified with the schools of Iowa in that connection for two years and then in March, 1877, accepted a position as clerk and bookkeeper in a hardware establishment in which the succeeding two years were passed. In the spring of 1879 he came to Nebraska, settling at Aurora. He traveled to York, then the terminal of the Burlington & Missouri Railroad, and from that point proceeded by stage to his destination where he arrived on the 22d of February, 1879. Here he

became engaged in the real estate business with H. V. Temple, who had formerly been his teacher in the schools of Iowa, and who accompanied him to Nebraska. This business association was continued until the spring of 1883, when Mr. Farley became one of the organizers and stockholders of the Farmers & Merchants Bank in which he was associated with W. H. Streeter and E. J. Hainer. Selected as the first cashier of the bank he continued to fill the position and also the office of president for five years and later participated in the organization of the Aurora Bank Company of which he became president, and as such directed the affairs of the company and shaped the policy of the institution for six years. It was then consolidated with the Hamilton County Bank, the new organization later purchasing the First National Bank of Aurora and Mr. Farley became the vice president and one of the directors. Since entering banking circles he has continually broadened his activities in this connection and is today one of the foremost financiers of the state. In the spring of 1888 he was associated with his brothers John J. and George H. Farley in acquiring an interest and taking part in the organization of Farley's Bank of Marquette, Nebraska, which has since become the First National Bank of Marquette, W. I. Farley being elected to the presidency. He is now president of the First National Bank of Aurora, the First National Bank of Marquette, the First State Bank of Hordville, the First State Bank of Whitman, the First State Bank of Murphy and the Citizens State Bank of Thedford. His judgment is sound, his sagacity notably keen and his enterprise and energy unfaltering. The banking institutions with which he is thus closely associated have become most important factors in the upbuilding of the various communities in which they are located and have done much to maintain commercial stability. Mr. Farley has also been extensively and actively interested in real estate, being associated for some time with F. A. Burt in realty and financial interests. He is a large investor in Hamilton county farm land, owning over a thousand acres, and he has given much time to the management of his properties which at all times are the expression of improved methods of farming and stock raising. He keeps abreast with agricultural progress in every particular and his example has been largely followed by others.

Mr. Farley was united in marriage in 1888 to Miss Anna L. Oyler who was born near LaFayette, Indiana, and they have become parents of four children: William J., who is connected with his father in business; Alice L., the wife of Donnell Gilliam, an attorney of Tarboro, North Carolina; Annie L., the wife of Stanley Boykin, of Wilson, North Carolina, where he is engaged in the real estate business; and Margaret, at home, now a student in the Martha Washington Seminary at Washington, D. C.

The family attends the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Farley is a member of the Masonic fraternity, the Knights of Pythias, and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a past chancellor commander of the Knights of Pythias and at all times has been loyal to the teachings and high purposes of these organizations. In politics he has ever been a republican since casting his first presidential vote for R. B. Hayes in 1876 and in 1907 he was made the republican candidate for the state legislature and elected to the general assembly. He discharged his official duties with the same thoroughness and capability that have characterized his business career and his labors were attended by beneficial

results. He is a forceful and resourceful man, to whom opportunity has ever been the call to action and through the period of his connection with Nebraska the state has numbered him among her representative and valued citizens.

ROBERT G. BROWN

Robert G. Brown, an attorney of Sutton and one of the pioneer settlers of Clay county, was born in Clark county, Illinois, October 4, 1847, a son of Samuel R. and Mary R. (Howell) Brown, natives of Virginia and Kentucky, respectively. They were married in Illinois when but nineteen and fifteen years of age and there the father passed away about 1858, when between forty and fifty years of age. He had become the owner of a small farm in Clark county, Illinois. The mother afterward went to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to visit a daughter and there passed away in 1897. The parents were members of the Baptist church and Mr. Brown cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont. To him and his wife were born six sons and two daughters and three of the family are living: George W., a retired farmer and president of the Farmers' State Bank at Sargent, Nebraska; Robert G.; and Mary E., who is the wife of William L. Weed, a railroad claim agent at Denver, Colorado. Three of the sons—Charles W., Francis M. and John H.—served as Union soldiers in the Civil war.

Robert G. Brown obtained a country school education in Illinois and afterward attended Marshall College at Marshall, that state. He then began reading law in the office of Scofield & Wilkin of Marshall, Illinois, both of his preceptors dying while serving on the supreme bench of the state. Mr. Brown began practice in his native state, but advancement at the bar is proverbially slow and because he met with such difficulty in gaining a professional start he removed to the west, reaching Sutton in the spring of 1871. He became the first lawyer of Clay county and has remained here continuously since. He and his three brothers also homesteaded and became identified with the early development of this section of the state. Robert G. Brown proposed that the county should be organized and was the man who acted as leader in bringing this about. The work was accomplished October 14, 1871, at the home of Alexander Campbell, thirteen miles west of Sutton. His brother, F. M. Brown, was the first county clerk and Robert G. Brown became the first county treasurer. He bought a lot in Sutton for five dollars and this was the first deed filed in the county, being recorded on Book 1, Page 1, of the county record. He bought this lot in order to be a freeholder, so he could sign the bonds for county officers. He also served as a director of the first school district and was the first legal adviser of the county. He likewise filled the office of mayor in Sutton as the second incumbent in that position and in 1887 served as state senator. In 1892 he removed to Beatrice, Nebraska, where he lived for two years and a half, practicing law. On the expiration of that period he located in Denver, Colorado, where he continued in practice for another two and a half years and then again came to Sutton, where he practiced until his retirement from active life. In the meantime he had acquired land in Clay county and is also the owner of town property. He has ever done all in his power for the benefit and upbuilding

of Sutton and Clay county, laying out the town of Clay Center. He was also responsible for the purchase of the town site, this occurring at the time Harvard was making its fight for the courthouse. Believing that Harvard would get it away from Sutton, he chose Clay Center as the lesser evil and was instrumental in securing the establishment of the county seat there.

Mr. Brown was married in Illinois to Ella B. Constable, a daughter of Charles H. Constable, who was a judge of the circuit court in Illinois, and Abraham Lincoln practiced in his court. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have become parents of three children: Alice M., the wife of Dr. E. E. Yocum, a dentist of Belgrade, Nebraska; Jessie Belinda, at home; and Mabel R., the wife of A. W. Burge, assistant manager with the Oakland Motor Company at Buffalo, New York.

Mrs. Brown is a member of the Episcopal church. Fraternally Mr. Brown is a Mason, belonging to the Knight Templar commandery and the Mystic Shrine at Lincoln, Nebraska. He is a past master of his lodge and past high priest of the chapter. In politics he is now a democrat but gave his political allegiance to the republican party until 1896. He was a delegate to the national convention at Cincinnati in 1876 and has been quite active in political connections, filling the various offices already indicated and at all times making a capable record by his devotion to the principles which he espouses.

NELS BENGTSON

To the pioneers who had the persistence and courage that caused them to hold to their course, regardless of adverse conditions and numerous hardships in the earlier days, the soil of Hamilton county has been made to give generous tribute, with the resultant prosperity that attends many of those who thus endured and labored when the civic and industrial history of this section of the state was in the making. Nels Bengtson had little of fortifying resources save energy, ambition, good health and determined purpose when he and his wife cast in their lot with other pioneers of Hamilton county in the year 1877, and in the full enjoyment of peace and plenty in later years, he had the deepest appreciation of and loyalty to the county and state in which he had found the medium through which to gain this independence. In the earlier period of their residence on their isolated prairie farm Mr. Bengtson and his devoted wife frequently saw times when they did not have in their possession sufficient cash to pay postage on a letter, but they made the best of conditions, worked and planned without losing faith, practiced frugality when their circumstances became less straitened, and held true to their purposes in fair weather and foul, with the result that eventually they were not denied a generous reward for all that they had endured and labored. Thus it was that at the time of his death, on the 24th of June, 1907, Mr. Bengtson was the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of valuable land in Hamilton county and was known and honored as a worthy and substantial pioneer citizen of this section of the state. A short time before his death he and his wife removed from their farm to the village of Hordville and in the attractive home which he there provided his widow still resides, surrounded by friends who are tried and true, and sustained and com-

forted by the gracious memories of earlier years, when she and her husband were working side by side.

Nels Bengtson was born in Sweden in the year 1847, was there reared and educated, and was twenty-one years of age when he came to the United States and established his residence at Wilcox, Pennsylvania, where he found employment in a tannery. In that state in the year 1876 he was united in marriage to Miss Emma Magneson, who was also born in Sweden and who was sixteen years of age when she came to the United States. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Bengtson continued their residence in the old Keystone state until 1877, when they came to Nebraska, impressed with the belief that in this new and progressive commonwealth they could find opportunity for winning independence and stable prosperity through their own ability and efforts. Soon after his arrival Mr. Bengtson purchased eighty acres of unbroken prairie land in Bluffs township, but during the first summer he and his wife occupied a sod house on a rented farm. In the following year he erected a little frame house, twelve by sixteen feet, on his own land and when the accommodations later became too limited he constructed a sod addition to the diminutive building. He utilized an ox team in breaking his land and the yoke with which these patient animals were equipped to do this work is retained on the old farm today, as a souvenir of the pioneer period. Season followed season, some giving generous tribute and others recording losses of crops through drought, hailstorms, grasshoppers and other adverse conditions, but the end was prosperity and Mr. Bengtson never wavered in faith nor self-reliance. He made good improvements on his farm property and was known as one of the progressive agriculturists and stock raisers of his adopted county.

Mr. and Mrs. Bengtson became the parents of eight children, the eldest, Wilhelm, resides at Central City, Merrick county, where he is a city engineer; Morris is a prosperous farmer near Hordville, Hamilton county; Oscar A. died at the age of twenty-three years; Thelma is the wife of Aaron Blumquist, a manager of the Hordville Lumber Company; John A. is a successful farmer in this county; Emily is the wife of John Veburg, an enterprising exponent of farm industry in this county; Ivan M. is engaged as cashier of the bank at Murphy, Nebraska; and Gilbert is at the time of this writing, in 1921, a student in the Omaha University of Medicine.

Mr. Bengtson's political support was given to the republican party and he was an earnest communicant of the Swedish Lutheran church, as is also his widow, who is now venerable in years but who bears those years lightly, as she is vigorous in mind and physical powers.

WILLIAM ASHBY

William Ashby, mayor of Fairfield, Nebraska, where he is engaged in the hardware business, was born in Champaign, Illinois, in 1867, a son of Martinus and Mary (Patton) Ashby, the former a native of New York and the latter of Ohio. Their marriage occurred in Ohio and in 1858 they removed to Illinois. There the father bought land on which he made his home until 1884 when he removed his family to Nebraska and located in Clay county. The death of Mrs. Ashby occurred

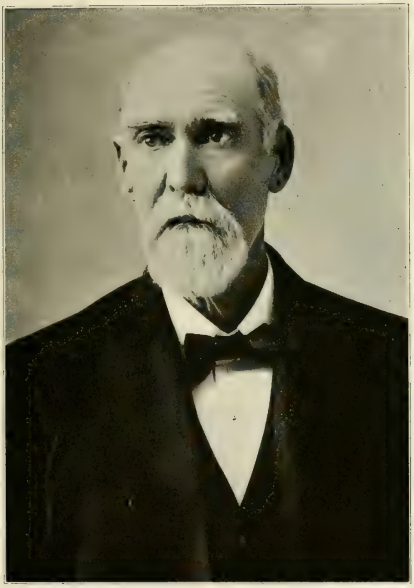
on the homestead and his demise occurred in Fairfield. Four children were born to that union, two of whom are living: William, whose name initiates this review; and Ernest, a farmer of Guide Rock. Throughout his life Mr. Ashby was a stanch republican and the religious faith of the family was that of the Congregational church. On the paternal side William Ashby was a descendant of English ancestors and on the maternal side of Scotch-Irish ancestry.

William Ashby received his education in the public schools of Champaign and in due time entered the University of Illinois, which he attended two years. He then started farming, teaching school in the winters and for several years after removing to Nebraska also followed that occupation. In 1907, however, he moved into Fairfield and established a hardware and plumbing business, in the conduct of which he is still active and achieving a great amount of success.

In 1908 Mr. Ashby was united in marriage to Mrs. Carrie Aikman, a native of Illinois, and a daughter of J. P. Adams. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ashby are members of the Methodist church and he is fraternally identified with the Masons and the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Ashby has always been a stanch supporter of the republican party and in 1894 was elected to the state legislature. In 1920 he was elected to the mayoralty and one of the important features of his administration will be the street improvements, which work is now under way. In the line of his hardware business Mr. Ashby has built up a large and lucrative trade and he is a firm believer in the statement that satisfied patrons are the best advertisement. He is held in high esteem for his genuine worth and he is a man who at all times can be relied upon and who is faithful to every trust committed to his care.

ELI B. BARTON

For thirty years E. B. Barton resided on a farm in Hamilton county and then removed to Aurora where his remaining days were spent in the enjoyment of a rest which he had truly earned and richly deserved. He was born in Stark county, Ohio, August 13, 1843, and his life covered the intervening years to the 28th of July, 1910, when he was called to his final rest. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Barton, were both natives of Ohio who passed away in that state where the father had followed the occupation of farming. The son was educated in the schools of Malvern, Ohio, and was well educated for his day. He began teaching when but seventeen years of age and proved most capable in imparting readily and clearly to others the knowledge he had acquired. At the time of the Civil war, however, he put aside all business and personal considerations and joined the army, enlisting on the 13th of August, 1862, as a member of Company I, Ninety-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. After the war was over and the country no longer needed his military aid he removed to Illinois in 1865 and there taught school for two years. In 1867 he became a resident of Henry county, Iowa, which was another step in the journey that was eventually to bring him to Nebraska. Three years were spent in Iowa and in the early spring of 1871 Mr. Barton came to Hamilton county where his remaining days were passed. Here he built a small frame house



ELI B. BARTON

on the homestead which is still owned by his widow, one hundred and sixty acres on section 18, range 10. The lumber for this house he brought from Henry county, Iowa, and he and his family resided on the farm for about thirty-nine years. The property now comprises a tract of three hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land. In the year 1879 Mr. Barton was called to the office of county superintendent of schools and occupied that responsible position for ten years, contributing to the development and substantial improvement of the schools through that period.

It was in 1868 that Mr. Barton was united in marriage to Miss Teresa E. Nugen who was born in West Virginia and when quite young removed to New London, Iowa. She was educated in the high school at New London and spent her girlhood days at the home of her parents, Silas R. and Martha J. (Kennett) Nugen, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of West Virginia. Mr. Nugen devoted his life to farming and ultimately moved to South Dakota where his remaining days were passed. To him and his wife were born twelve children, of whom ten are living, Mrs. Barton being the second in order of birth. To Mr. and Mrs. Barton the following children were born: Lena, the deceased wife of Rufus Buckley; Silas R., who died in 1916 on election day. He was running for congress and had served a previous term; Charles, a farmer and carpenter residing in Aurora; George, who is engaged in the life insurance business in Omaha, Nebraska; Guy, who has recently organized the Policy Holders Life Insurance Company at Sioux Falls, South Dakota; John, who is traveling for the Iron Works at Lincoln, Nebraska; and Maude, the wife of D. L. Moses, who resides in Aurora.

Mr. Barton held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, with which Mrs. Barton is still identified. In politics he was a republican and fraternally he was connected with the Grand Army of the Republic and at all times manifested the same loyalty in matters of citizenship as he displayed when he followed the nation's banner on the battle fields of the south. In his later life, or in June, 1910, he removed with his family to Aurora and erected a nice residence at No. 1311 Thirteenth street, which is now occupied by Mrs. Barton and her daughter. Mr. Barton enjoyed the high respect, confidence and goodwill of all who knew him. He was a man of liberal education with whom association meant friendship and elevation. He stood at all times for progress and improvement, was never content to use the second best, and his entire life was marked by steady advancement along those lines which contributed to the material, intellectual and moral progress of the community in which he made his home.

G. W. BENNETT

For about eleven years G. W. Bennett had made his home in Hampton, Hamilton county, where he engaged in the milling business and upon his death on February 13, 1896, a deep feeling of bereavement swept the community in which he had made so many friends. He was a native of the state of New York, having been born in Cortland county on the 23d of December, 1835.

He received his education in the schools of his native state and just before

the outbreak of the Civil war removed to Illinois. He went into service from that state, becoming a member of the Seventy-second Illinois Infantry, with which he served for three years. After the war Mr. Bennett made his home in Wisconsin for some time, his marriage taking place during his residence there, and subsequently removed to Iowa, where he engaged in milling at Storm Lake for a number of years. He then decided to come further west and as a result came to Nebraska, his first residence in this state being at Marquette. He remained there less than a year, however, when he removed to Bradshaw and subsequently located at Hampton, where he continued to reside until his death. He never engaged in farming but throughout his entire life followed the milling business, in which line of work he achieved a substantial amount of success.

On the 26th of August, 1873, in Cadiz, Wisconsin, occurred the marriage of Mr. Bennett and Miss Hariett Parmer, a native of Green county, that state, in which her birth occurred in the year 1852. To them two sons were born: Charles Henry, residing in Chappell; and Burt, who was born October 26, 1879, and passed away March 15, 1903.

During his lifetime Mr. Bennett was a stanch supporter of the republican party but never sought nor desired office, preferring rather to devote his entire time to his milling interests. Fraternally he was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and was also a member of the Marquette Post, Grand Army of the Republic. He was one of the few old soldiers of the community and was looked upon as an ideal and representative citizen. His death has left a place in the community which will be hard to fill. The widow of Mr. Bennett is still residing in Hampton, where she has a fine home and is financially independent. She is prominent in religious and lodge circles, being a consistent member of the Methodist church in which she is a worker in the Ladies Aid, and she is prominent in the Highland Lodge, Degree of Honor and the Royal Neighbors, all of which belong to the Aurora lodge.

JOSEPH R. ROGGY

Since 1886 Joseph R. Roggy has resided in Clay county and during that time has steadily advanced along his line of occupation until he is now recognized as one of the leading agriculturists of the county and a representative citizen. Mr. Roggy was born in Alsace-Lorraine, March 28, 1842, his parents being Joseph and Magdalena (Schirtz) Roggy. They came to America in 1848 aboard a sailing vessel of the early type, which caught on fire and so delayed the journey as to take thirty-six days to make the trip. Mr. and Mrs. Roggy made their home in Lake county, Illinois, where they engaged in farming, following that occupation the remainder of their lives. Joseph Roggy, Sr., became well known throughout the county as a farmer and stock raiser of ability.

Joseph R. Roggy received his education in the country schools of Illinois, attending school in primitive frame buildings with hard wooden benches for seats. He made his home with his parents until he enlisted for service in the Civil war. In 1864 he became a member of Company A, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth

Illinois Volunteer Infantry and was mustered into service at Peoria, Illinois. He was on guard duty at Cairo, that state, and at various other points throughout Illinois and participated in several skirmishes when Price was raiding Missouri. After the war he returned to Illinois, where he started farming for himself, buying land in Livingston county. He owned one hundred and twenty acres of land there and engaged in general farming and stock raising. In 1886, after living for some time in Bureau county, he came west and located in Clay county. His father had purchased some railroad land there in 1880 and Mr. Roggy bought this land from his father. He put up a small frame house and shed stable and broke part of his land himself. He set out a good orchard and some forest trees. Mr. Roggy suffered loss of crops during the droughts of 1893 and 1894 but after that time achieved a great amount of success in his agricultural ventures. He is now in possession of one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land with fine improvements.

While residing in Illinois Mr. Roggy was united in marriage to Miss Lena Virkler, a native of that state, and she became the mother of two children: Ada, who is the widow of James Fish, at one time a prominent farmer in Minnesota. A son of Mrs. Fish's, Dale, was aboard the Tuscania when it sank. The second child born to this union was Lena, who died at the age of six months. Some time after the death of his first wife, Mr. Roggy was again wed, taking as his wife Miss Hattie Lee, a native of Connecticut, who came to Illinois with her parents when but five years of age. To the latter marriage two children have been born: C. H., who is engaged in the carpenter business at Trumbull; and A. Le Roy, who is farming the old home place.

Mr. Roggy is an independent voter, giving his support to the man rather than to any particular party. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist church, of which he has been trustee for many years. Fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and since 1873 has been a Modern Woodman of America. He is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, belonging to Harrison Post of Trumbull. While residing in Illinois he was for some time active in the office of constable. Mr. Roggy has many friends who appreciate his sterling characteristics and personal integrity and his success is the result of his own diligence and industry.

HENRY V. NELSON

On the roster of public officials in Hamilton county appears the name of Henry V. Nelson who is filling the position of county clerk in an acceptable manner. He is a native of this county, his birth having occurred in Otis precinct, January 10, 1888, his parents being C. P. and Anna (Swanson) Nelson, the former a native of Sweden, while the latter was born in the state of Wisconsin. They were married on this side of the Atlantic and in 1871 came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where Mr. Nelson homesteaded. He built a sod house in which he lived with his family for a number of years and three of the children were there born. He afterward erected a frame dwelling and added modern equipments and improvements as his financial resources increased. Mrs. Nelson

has now passed away but the father resides in Aurora with his son, having retired from active business. In their family were four children, of whom three are living: Clarence, a real estate dealer of Chicago, Illinois; Arthur S., superintendent of the Hamilton county schools; and Henry V. Mrs. Nelson, who passed away in 1901, was a member of the Swedish church and C. P. Nelson is also connected with the church, loyally supporting its teachings and principles. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he served on the village board at Hampton when a resident there.

Henry V. Nelson completed a course in the Hampton high school by graduation with the class of 1905 and then attended the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru. He later taught school for two years, after which he managed the mill and elevator at Hampton for a period of eight years. He subsequently spent four years in the office of deputy county clerk and in 1918 was elected county clerk, in which position he is now serving for the second year.

In 1909 Mr. Nelson was married to Miss Ada M. Nichols, who was born in St. Paul, Howard county, Nebraska, a daughter of G. W. Nichols who was formerly engaged in the milling business but is now living retired in Aurora. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have two sons: Wayne, nine years of age; and Dwight, a youth of six. Mr. Nelson is a Mason, belonging to the lodge and chapter and he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. He is likewise identified with the Knights of Pythias fraternity and in his political views is a republican. He devotes his entire time to his office and is most prompt, systematic and capable in the discharge of his duties, his record reflecting credit upon himself and proving at all times highly satisfactory to his constitutents.

ARTHUR S. NELSON

Arthur S. Nelson, serving for the second term as county superintendent of schools of Hamilton county, was born in Otis township and is a son of C. P. Nelson, mentioned elsewhere in this work. In the acquirement of his education Arthur S. Nelson attended the high school at Hampton, from which he was graduated with the class of 1901. Desiring still further to promote his knowledge he entered the Fremont Normal College and afterward attended the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru and the Colorado State Teachers College at Greeley. His training has been thorough and comprehensive and at all times he keeps in touch with the trend of professional thought and progress.

Professor Nelson began teaching in the rural schools of Hamilton county in 1904 and was thus actively identified with the profession for eight years, acting as principal of the schools at Phillips for two years at two different times and also one year at Wauneta and Chapman. In 1916 he was elected county superintendent of schools and made so creditable a record in the office that he was reelected in 1920 for a second term of four years.

Professor Nelson is a member of the Knights of Pythias. His political views are in accord with the principles of the republican party and upon its ticket he was elected to office. He devotes his entire time to the duties of his position and

in this connection has control of over ninety-seven schools, each of which he visits semi-annually. There are also three consolidated schools in the county and each year he holds a large teachers' institute. He has ever devoted his time and attention to school work and has made a most excellent record, inspiring teachers and pupils under him with much of his own zeal and interest in the profession and at all times recognizing the fact that the only education worth while is that which prepares the individual to meet life's battles nobly and courageously.

J. O. LATTA, M. D.

Holding to high professional standards Dr. J. O. Latta is successfully engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Clay Center and his ability is recognized by a large patronage. He was born in Plattsmouth, Cass county, Nebraska, August 9, 1877, and is a son of William E. and Sarah L. (Current) Latta. The former was a son of Robert Latta, who was one of the early homesteaders of Cass county and who was a carpenter by trade. The maternal grandfather, James A. Current, was born in Indiana, served as a soldier in defense of the Union during the Civil war and at an early period in the development of this state established his home in Cass county. William E. Latta was born in Ohio and came to Cass county before the railroad was built into this section of the state. He devoted his attention to farming in the early days but afterwards engaged in merchandising and for many years successfully carried on business until his acquired capital was sufficient to enable him to put aside the active duties and cares of life and he and his wife now reside in Kenesaw, Nebraska. Mrs. Latta is a native of Indiana and by their marriage they have become the parents of three children: Robert Bruce, who died at the age of twenty-two months; Letta, the wife of J. L. Templeton, a real estate dealer of Kenesaw, Nebraska; and J. O., of this review. The parents are consistent members of the Presbyterian church, having for years taken an active and helpful part in its work. In his political views William E. Latta has long been a stalwart republican and since taking up his abode in Kenesaw has filled the office of mayor, has also served as justice of the peace and has otherwise been active in shaping public thought and directing public interest there.

Dr. Latta, whose name introduces this record, obtained a high school education in Kenesaw, Nebraska, and afterward was graduated from Cotner University Medical College at Lincoln, Nebraska, with the class of 1902. Having qualified for the practice of medicine he began his professional work at Clay Center, where he has won a liberal patronage and is today the oldest practitioner of the town in years of continuous connection with professional work here. He reads broadly and thinks deeply along the line of his chosen profession, keeping in touch with modern methods of practice, and his ability is again and again demonstrated in the splendid results he achieves. He is the owner of the Hotel in Clay Center, but concentrates the greater part of his time and attention upon his professional duties.

In 1904 Dr. Latta was married to Miss Ada M. Bavinger, a native of Illinois and a daughter of George M. and Jennie (Pardun) Bavinger, who removed from

Illinois to Colorado and afterward came to Clay county, where her father followed the occupation of farming for a number of years, but is now living in Clay Center. To Dr. and Mrs. Latta have been born two children: Inez, now in school; and William Mitchell, who is in his first year. The parents attend the Congregational church and Dr. Latta is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having taken the Scottish Rite degrees and become a member of the Mystic Shrine. He likewise belongs to the Knights of Pythias and to the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan. He is a past chancellor commander of the Pythian Lodge. His political endorsement is given to the republican party and he served for nine years as a member of the city council of Clay Center and for three years was mayor of the city. He is largely responsible for the paving of Clay Center and for the introduction of many other improvements which have been of great value here. Along strictly professional lines Dr. Latta is connected with the State and National Eclectic Medical Societies, the Nebraska State Medical and American Medical Association, and at one time was a member of the committee for the insane in this state and has been a member of the Insane Commission of Clay county for twelve years. His life has been strong and purposeful and his energy and ability have brought him prominently to the front not only in professional but in other connections which have been beneficial to the county at large.

FRANK WANEK, SR.

Frank Wanek, Sr., for many years a foremost agriculturist in Hamilton county, is now living retired in his fine home near Giltner, enjoying the fruits of a life spent in diligence and industry. A native of Bohemia he was born in that country April 1, 1847, a son of John and Catherine Wanek, both natives of that country. In 1865 John Wanek with his family and his brothers, Joe and Charles, came to the United States and settled in Wisconsin, where they bought land in Grant county. John Wanek became a prominent farmer of the community and both he and his wife passed away in Wisconsin.

Frank Wanek received his common school education in his native land and was eighteen years of age when he came with his parents to America. Settling with them in Grant county, Wisconsin, he worked out for board and later received the remuneration of three dollars per month for his labors. He bought forty acres of land in Grant county, which he cleared of stones and tree stumps and brought to a highly cultivated state, residing thereon until 1872, when he decided to come to Nebraska. He first went to North Bend, Nebraska, walked from there to Lincoln and then drove to Hamilton county by team with two other men, paying his share of the expenses. He did not long remain in the west, but returned to his home in Wisconsin in the fall of the same year. Subsequently, however, he again started west, driving overland in a covered wagon and bringing with him two cows. This journey took more than three weeks. He reached Hamilton county just after a big prairie fire, when the country for miles around looked exceedingly desolate. He took a preemption claim of one hundred and sixty acres, which he held for thirty-three months and then homesteaded eighty acres,



MR AND MRS FRANK WANEK

buying soldier's rights and procuring the land for one hundred dollars. His first improvements on the land consisted of a house, half dugout and half sod, twelve by fourteen feet, and also dugout barns. He broke his own land, hauled his provisions from Grand Island and went to mill at Milford and Pleasant Hill. He set out shade trees, putting them all around the homestead and also planted a ten acre grove. In 1875 the grasshoppers destroyed all of his crops but this misfortune did not dampen his resolve to succeed. Willows on the bank of the Platteville river he cut for fuel and also burned corn and cornstalks. There is no phase of pioneer hardship with which Mr. Wanek is not familiar, but through it all he kept his courage, which together with his energy and grim determination made it possible for him to overcome the greatest obstacles. From time to time he bought more land and at one period of his career was in possession of forty-four eighty-acre tracts. In 1910 he decided to retire from active farm life and built a fine home near Giltner, where he is now residing.

Mr. Wanek has been twice married. His first marriage occurred in Wisconsin, where he was wed to Catherine Talich, and to them six children were born: Charles, who is farming in Hamilton county; John, also a farmer of Hamilton county; Frank, engaged in farming in Hamilton county; George, who is cashier of the Farmers State Bank at Aurora; Thomas, deceased; and William, who is residing in Giltner. Mr. Wanek was later wed to Anna Kulhanek, and they are the parents of one child, Katie, at home. The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church, of which they are consistent members.

Mr. Wanek is rightly entitled to the proud American title of self-made man, for he has risen to his present prosperity solely through his own efforts. Since the time when he helped to build the first sod schoolhouse in this country he has been interested in all movements for the development and improvement of the community.

WORTH L. MINOR

Since 1901 Worth L. Minor has engaged in the practice of law at Fairfield, Clay county, and has won a well merited reputation for success at the bar. He was born in Tiskilwa, Illinois, in 1878, a son of William and Mary Ella (Barnhard) Minor, both natives of West Virginia. They were married at Orion, Illinois, and are still residing in that state. The father was a druggist for a number of years but for the past ten or twelve years has been living retired. Three children have been born to them: Georgia, who is the wife of William Crouse and lives in Texas; Marcia, the wife of a Mr. Donaldson and a resident of Rock Island; and W. L., whose name initiates this review. Both Mr. and Mrs. Minor are consistent members of the Catholic church. His political allegiance is given to the republican party in the interests of which he takes an active part. On the paternal side W. L. Minor is descended from Scotch ancestors and on the maternal side from English ancestors.

In the acquirement of an education W. L. Minor attended the schools of his native county and later entered the Geneseo, Illinois, Collegiate Normal School, from which he was graduated in 1897. In that same year he came to Nebraska and

located in Fairfield. For two years he engaged in the real estate business and then entered the State University of Nebraska, taking a law course, and was graduated from that institution in 1901, with the degree of LL. B. He began the practice of his profession in that year and is one of the most successful attorneys in Fairfield.

In 1901 Mr. Minor was united in marriage to Miss Sadie V. Ward, a native of Ulysses, Nebraska, and a daughter of John Ward, a pioneer homesteader of Butler county. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Minor, one child, Ward, has been born. He is now fourteen years of age.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Minor the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the republican party, in the interests of which he takes a prominent and active part. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church and fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Columbus. Mr. Minor is a self-made man. He worked in order to obtain enough money to enter a law school. He is a man of well balanced intellect, thoroughly familiar with the law and practice, possesses comprehensive general information and an analytical mind, and these qualities have won him a substantial success in practice.

W. J. PERRY

In the passing of W. J. Perry Clay county lost a representative citizen and agriculturist. His death occurred on the 24th of November, 1905, and came as a severe shock to his family and many friends. He was born in Knoxville, Illinois, on the 1st of August, 1844, and in that state received his early education. He remained under the parental roof until the last year of the Civil war when he enlisted and was in active service for the remainder of the conflict. After his discharge from the army he returned to Illinois and in 1869 was married. He was farming rented land there prior to his marriage and soon after decided to come west. In the latter part of 1879 he arrived in Adams county, Nebraska, rented a farm there and continued in that occupation until 1881, when he removed to Clay county. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres on which he put up a frame house, modern in every respect for that period, and also erected a frame barn. This barn was struck by lightning and burned to the ground soon after it was built. Mr. Perry set out a fine orchard and some shade trees but the orchard mostly died out during the droughts of 1893 and 1894. While residing in Adams county he suffered the loss of his crops during the grasshopper plague and at various other times he suffered severe loss as a result of hailstorms. He was, however, a man of grim determination and energy and every misfortune seemed but to spur him on to greater effort. At the time of his death he was widely known throughout the community as a successful and progressive agriculturist, representative citizen and a man of true personal worth.

In Illinois on the 15th of December, 1869, Mr. Perry was united in marriage to Miss Martha Henry, a native of Belfast, Ireland. Her death occurred on the 4th of March, 1897, and came as a blow to her family and many friends through-

out the community where she had long made her home. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Perry six children were born: S. R., who is engaged in the automobile business at Sidney; W. J., also engaged in the automobile service at Sidney; Ellen, who is the wife of A. S. Wilson, now farming the old homestead of Mr. Perry; Anna, the wife of C. M. Turner, who is engaged in farming in Clay county; Martha M., the wife of C. D. Rader of Clay county, a farmer on a part of her father's old farm; and Frank H., who is an elevator inspector in Calgary, Canada.

Throughout his life Mr. Perry was a stanch supporter of the republican party, in the interests of which he took an active part. Fraternally he was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and in the civic affairs of the community he served as a director of the school board for many years. He was one of the organizers of school district No. 71. As a veteran of the Civil war he had membership in the Grand Army of the Republic and was prominently connected with the activities of the local post at Trumbull. Mrs. Perry was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. During the many years that Mr. and Mrs. Perry resided in Clay county they made many and true friends—friends who appreciated their true personal worth and sterling characteristics. Their death was a severe blow to the community for in their passing Clay county lost two beloved pioneer citizens.

ELBERT M. RADER

Since 1918 Elbert M. Rader, who for many years has been prominent in the agricultural circles of Hamilton county, has lived retired in Trumbull. He was born in Greene county, Tennessee, on the 14th of March, 1855, a son of Andrew and Emily (Brittain) Rader, both of whom passed away when their son was but a small boy. He was bound out at the age of eleven years and later went to live with a man who owned and ran an implement store. He remained with this man in Greene county until he was seventeen years of age when he was given thirty-five dollars which enabled him to go to Pike county, Illinois. He had but two dollars left when he arrived there. He secured work on farms by the month receiving twenty dollars a month for his labors and continued in that connection until he was twenty-one years of age. In 1876 Mr. Rader was married and then engaged in farming on his own account, renting land in Adams county, Illinois. He went in debt in order to buy his first team and his first taxes amounted to fifty cents. In 1884, the same year he came to Nebraska, he purchased sixty acres in Knox county, Missouri, which he farmed with a gratifying amount of success until he disposed of that land and removed to Nebraska, locating in Hamilton county. He then bought one hundred and twenty acres of railroad land, for which he paid fifteen dollars per acre, built a small frame house and shed stable and broke part of his own land. He put out an orchard and also some forest trees and brought the place to a highly cultivated state. He suffered the early pioneer hardships, however, and lost practically everything in the drought of 1894 and also in various hailstorms. However, the greater the obstacle the more determined Mr. Rader was to succeed, with the result that he is now in possession of two

hundred acres of the best land in Hamilton county. In 1918 he decided to retire from active farm life and removed to Trumbull where he erected a fine home, in which he is now residing.

On the 28th of September, 1876, occurred the marriage of Mr. Rader and Miss Lucinda Pine, further mention of whom may be found in the sketch of Mrs. Mary Pine on another page of this work. Ten children have been born to this union: Charles D., who is farming in Clay county; Frank, engaged in farming in Hamilton county; Nellie, who first married Elvan Hart of Adams county and who is now the wife of H. W. Cope, Methodist Episcopal minister at Red Cloud; Florence, now deceased, who was the wife of Nelson Lebaron, a lumberman of Giltner; Elbert, died in infancy; Lula, the wife of Guy Gayman, a farmer of Adams county; Lida, who is the wife of Chester Munn, who is engaged in farming in Hamilton county; Edith, whose death occurred in 1918 and who was the wife of Tilton Snider of Trumbull; Myron, farming the home place; and Erma, who is living at home.

Mr. Rader is an independent voter along political lines, giving his support to the man he considers best fitted for the office. The entire family are consistent members of the Methodist church and he is a charter member of the church at Trumbull. Fraternally he is known as a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He has always taken an active part in the civic affairs of the county and for twenty years has served his fellowmen as a school director of district No. 84. Throughout his life of diligence and industry his efforts have been intelligently directed and as a result he is now enjoying a life of retirement and is a greatly respected and representative citizen of Trumbull. As an agriculturist he is widely known throughout the community, being among the foremost general farmers and stock raisers of his section of the state.

J. C. SPRINGER

The three hundred and twenty acre farm of J. C. Springer, located in section 11, Union township, Hamilton county, is one of the finest farms in his section of the state. It has been brought to a fine state of cultivation and with its orchards and grain fields is one of the show places of the county. It is known as Cedar Lawn farm.

J. C. Springer is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Woodford county on the 25th of February, 1863. His parents removed to Livingston county, that state, when Mr. Springer was but six weeks old and there he resided on the parental farm until 1881. At that time the father brought the family to Nebraska and settled in Seward county, where he had purchased some fine land. J. C. Springer remained on his father's farm until he was twenty-one years of age, at which time he rented a farm and a team from his father and started farming on his own account. In 1887 he was married and continued to farm in Seward county for a few years and then purchased one hundred and sixty acres, paying five hundred dollars down on the property. About that time the house on this land burnt to the ground and he lost all of his household goods. For sixteen years he with

a brother ran a threshing machine in the county and achieved a great amount of success with this enterprise. In 1903 he bought his present farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Hamilton county and it is now one of the most beautifully improved farms in that section of the state. Mr. Springer has always specialized in the raising of grain, hogs and cattle and along these lines has gained wide recognition. An abundance of all kinds of fruit is also grown on the farm, there being over three hundred apple trees, eighty cherry trees, peaches, apricots, plums and grapes.

In October, 1887, occurred the marriage of Mr. Springer and Miss Emma Eicher, who was born in the same vicinity as her husband, and to them nine children have been born: Albert, whose death occurred at the age of eighteen years; Joseph M.; Salome; Benjamin J.; William E.; Lydia; Emma E.; Mabel R.; and Leroy M.

Although the greater part of Mr. Springer's time has been devoted to his agricultural interests he has also been prominent in the business circles of Giltner, where he is now a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company. He also had the distinction of being the first president of that company. Mr. Springer is always interested in any movement for the improvement and development of the community and for many years has been a member of the school board. Both Mr. and Mrs. Springer are consistent members of the Mennonite church and Mr. Springer serves that institution as treasurer. Mr. Springer is a self-made man in every sense of the word and is readily conceded to be a representative citizen of Hamilton county.

JOHN HERGENROTHER

In the passing of John Hergenrother, Clay county lost another pioneer citizen. For twenty-two years he made his home in that county and at his demise in 1892 a deep feeling of bereavement swept the community.

John Hergenrother was born in Germany in 1815 and received his education in that country. Later in life he came to the United States, first settling in New York and there his marriage occurred. Soon after that event took place he went to Iowa and located at Iowa City, where he followed the stone mason's trade until 1870, when he came to Clay county. He made the journey through from Iowa with wagon and team. Mr. Hergenrother homesteaded eighty acres of land, his first house consisted of part log and part dugout and he also erected a log barn. Provisions were hauled from Lincoln, the trip taking several days. There were many antelopes, deer, elks, and buffaloes in the vicinity of the homestead and from one buffalo hunt in the vicinity of where Kearney now stands, Mr. Hergenrother returned with a wagon load of buffalo meat. Many Indians passed through the homestead on their hunts and stopped for food and warmth. During the grasshopper plague Mr. Hergenrother suffered a loss of crops and for several days during the Easter blizzard of 1873 he was snowed in the house. He put out some shade trees and an orchard but the latter mostly died out. On that homestead Mr. Hergenrother resided until his death in 1892. He was widely

recognized throughout the county as a successful agriculturist and a representative citizen.

In New York the marriage of Mr. Hergenrother and Miss Marie Murhline took place and to them were born five children: Cora, who is the wife of John Bishop of Harvard; John, residing at Oxford; Peter, who owns and farms the homestead; Lena, the wife of Charles Smith of Harvard; and Mattie of Harvard. The death of Mrs. Hergenrother occurred in 1910. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hergenrother were members of the Catholic church.

Peter Hergenrother now owns and farms the old homestead, to which he succeeded upon the death of his father. It now consists of one hundred and sixty acres of land well improved and highly productive and Peter Hergenrother has taken his place among the leading agriculturists of the county. He remembers the trip from Iowa to this country, having been ten years of age at the time, how the family crossed the river at Nebraska City and how he followed behind and drove the two cows and one heifer. His education was obtained in this county and he had to walk a distance of a mile and a half every day to his school. Mr. Hergenrother always made his home with his parents. Like his father he has proved to be a successful and progressive farmer and is also conceded to be a representative citizen.

JOSEPH H. LYSINGER

Joseph H. Lysinger, who was well known as a pioneer farmer and respected citizen of Hamilton county, here passed away April 30, 1919, when about seventy-one years of age, his birth having occurred at Rays Hill, Pennsylvania, May 7, 1848. His parents were Isaac and Rachel (Sparks) Lysinger, who removed from the Keystone state to Illinois when their son Joseph was but four years of age. There he was reared to manhood amid pioneer conditions and surroundings. Following the outbreak of the Civil war he joined the army as a member of Company H, One Hundred and Forty-sixth Illinois Infantry, when but sixteen years of age and was mustered out in July, 1865. His company was made up of farmers and mechanics and won a notable reputation for its splendid morals. The command largely did provost duty in Quincy, Illinois. When the country no longer needed his aid Mr. Lysinger returned to his home in Illinois and there resided until March, 1873, when he came to Nebraska and secured a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres. As the years passed and his financial resources increased he acquired considerable land and city property and in addition to the development of his farm he also engaged in the lumber, coal and grain business at Aurora. He was successful in all that he undertook and was numbered among the men of affluence in the county at the time of his death.

In 1891 Mr. Lysinger was married to Miss Ella R. Lyon, who was born in De Kalb, Illinois, a daughter of George W. and Sophia (Richardson) Lyon, natives of New York and Vermont respectively. They were married, however, in De Kalb, Illinois, where they spent their remaining days, the father there engaging in business as a carpenter and farmer. He was active and prominent in local affairs and served as a member of the school board of De Kalb.



MR AND MRS J H LYSINGER

Mr. Lysinger voted with the republican party but was never ambitious to hold office. He made no professions of religious faith and united with no lodges but left behind him the record of a good name, his reputable business career and his sterling worth gaining for him the respect and confidence of all who knew him. Mrs. Lysinger has recently tendered to Hamilton county as a memorial to Mr. Lysinger a clock with four faces to be placed in the courthouse tower at Aurora—a gift whose financial worth will amount to between two and three thousand dollars. She occupies a nice home at No. 812 Twelfth street in Aurora, which was built in 1906. She has long been prominent in the social circles of the city and is interested in all those forces which make for moral and civic progress in the community.

JOHN W. SILVER

Nebraska, once a broad barren prairie, its wide stretches of flatland covered with a million wild flowers in June and in December with a dazzling and unbroken sheet of snow, has been transformed into a great agricultural state and many men recognizing the opportunities in the way of cultivating rich crops here, have won substantial success that has placed them with the men of affluence in the state, now enabling them to live retired. Such is the record of John W. Silver who now makes his home in Sutton. He was born in Bedford township, Bedford county, Pennsylvania, October 10, 1850, a son of Asa and Rachel R. (James) Silver. The mother was born in Rainsburg, Pennsylvania, while the father's birth occurred in Hopewell township, Bedford county. They were married, however, in Rainsburg, after which the father devoted his attention to farming and thus provided for the support of their family, which in the course of years numbered six sons and two daughters, but John W. Silver is the only one living. The parents were members of the Presbyterian church and the father was a whig in his political views until the dissolution of the party, when he joined the ranks of the new republican party. He was a son of Richard Silver, who was born in Frederick, Maryland, and went to Pennsylvania when eighteen years of age. The great-grandfather, John Silver, was a soldier of the Revolutionary war and had in his possession the oath of allegiance dated February 21, 1771, a valuable and interesting document which has since been handed down to his descendants. Two of his brothers, Samuel and James Silver, were also heroes of the Revolution and later obtained land at Lexington, Kentucky, in recognition of their services in the cause of Independence. The maternal grandfather of John W. Silver was George James, who came from south Wales to the new world, the James family being founded on this side the Atlantic while America was still numbered among the colonial possessions of Great Britain.

John W. Silver was educated in the free schools of Pennsylvania, attending the Brush Run school in Bedford county. He afterward worked on a farm in the Keystone state until he reached the age of twenty-eight years, and then made his way westward crossing the Missouri river, November 17, 1871, en route to Nebraska. He only remained in this state, however for about a month, after which he returned to Pennsylvania and again resided there for three years. On the expiration of that

period he once more came to Nebraska. In 1878 he located in Fillmore county, Nebraska, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he improved and developed. He has rented this farm for nearly thirty-nine years, but still owns the property and throughout the intervening period has gained a good rental therefrom.

On the 19th of February, 1878, Mr. Silver was married to Miss Emma Clark, who was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, and they have become the parents of one child, Josephine, who was educated in the Sutton schools and in a musical school in Chicago. She now teaches music in Sutton. The parents are members of the Presbyterian church and the daughter, Josephine, has membership in the Congregational church. Mr. Silver gives his political endorsement to the republican party.

Sutton numbers Mr. Silver among its residents from 1885. He had spent the years 1883 and 1884 in the Union Pacific shops and then he came to Sutton, where he has always been highly esteemed as a progressive citizen and reliable business man. He had enough to buy his farm and put it in condition when he came here and as the years have passed success has crowned his efforts. He is now living retired from all kinds of business, enjoying in well earned rest the fruits of his former toil.

HARRY E. TOOF

Hamilton county has been signally favored in the class of men who have occupied her offices for on the whole they have been men of splendid calibre, devoted to the welfare and progress of the community which they thus represent. To this class belongs Harry E. Toof who is now filling the office of county treasurer and makes his home in Aurora. A native of Illinois he was born in Dallas City, July 1, 1874, and his parents, Daniel L. and Emily C. (Burr) Toof, were married in Illinois of which state the mother was a native, while the father was born in Iowa. They resided in Illinois until the fall of 1878 and then came to Nebraska, settling in Gosper county where Mr. Toof homesteaded, but later sold his right for one hundred dollars. He then removed with his family to Hamilton county in 1880 and here purchased land, acquiring one hundred and twenty acres of which he retained possession for a year. He then sold that property and invested in eighty acres more upon which there were no improvements. He built a little house which he occupied for a short time in 1881 and then removed to a rented place which he occupied for four years. He next bought property and gave his attention to its further development and cultivation until the fall of 1902, when he removed to Aurora. There he made his home until December, 1917, when his wife passed away. He is now living retired at Long Beach, California. His business affairs had been carefully and ably managed and he won a substantial measure of success. He had two wagons, three horses and two cows when he came to Nebraska and in the early days picked corn for two cents per bushel and boarded himself, but long ago that period of financial hardship passed and his labors brought him prosperity as the years advanced. To him and his wife were born eight children, of whom seven are living: Harry E.; R. E., who is

the owner of a farm four miles south of Aurora; R. B., living on a farm of his own four miles southwest of Aurora; Mrs. Clara Gable, a widow residing at Sidney, Nebraska; Clyde B., who follows farming east of Dalton, Nebraska; Minnie, the wife of Walter C. Mower, a farmer of Sidney, Nebraska; and Della, the wife of W. E. Wright, residing at Long Beach, California, where he is engaged in the real estate business. The mother was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and the father is a loyal follower of the teachings and purposes of the Masonic fraternity, of the Woodmen and of the Highlanders. His political allegiance has long been given to the republican party and he has always maintained a progressive attitude in matters of citizenship.

Harry E. Toof obtained his early education in the country schools and later attended the high school of Aurora and the Western Normal College at Shenandoah, Iowa. He likewise spent a year as a student in the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He had to assist in making his way through school and to provide for his tuition he taught in rural schools for six years. He divided his time between farming in the summer months and teaching in the winter seasons and subsequently purchased land in Hamilton county and began farming for himself. In April, 1910, he removed to Aurora, where for eight years he conducted the mill and elevator but put aside business cares to assume official duties when in the fall of 1918 he was elected county treasurer, which office he has since capably filled. The major part of his time and attention is given to his official duties but he also supervises his farming property, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of land south of Aurora and an equal tract north of the city.

In 1900 Mr. Toof was married to Miss Sarah McKern who was born in Hamilton county, a daughter of William and Louisa McKern who arrived in Hamilton county in 1871, after which Mr. McKern homesteaded. He passed away in this county but his widow survives and makes her home in Aurora. Mr. and Mrs. Toof have become parents of five children: Vernon, Emily, Alycea and Ruth, all in school; and Robert, who completes the family.

Mr. Toof has always given his political allegiance to the republican party and feels that its platform contains the best elements of good government. Fraternally he is connected with the Woodmen and with the Highlanders and in Masonry he has attained the eighteenth degree of the Scottish Rite. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, leading consistent lives and in social circles they occupy an enviable position, enjoying the warm friendship and kindly regard of all who know them.

ANDREW G. GUSTAFSON

Among the sterling citizens to whom may be ascribed pioneer honors in Hamilton county is Andrew G. Gustafson who here purchased a tract of raw land at a time when development was in its initial stage in this section of Nebraska and who has been a resourceful figure in connection with the splendid exploiting of the agricultural resources of the county, where he is now the owner of a large and valuable farm property, situated in Monroe and Phillips township.

Mr. Gustafson was born in Sweden on the 17th of August, 1851, and he and two of his sisters are the only survivors of a family of eight children. The father, Andrew Gustafson, passed his entire life in his native land and there also the mother died, though she came to America and remained here for some time. The schools of Sweden afforded Mr. Gustafson his youthful education and he was about eighteen years of age when he severed the home ties and set forth to seek his fortunes in the United States. He came to this country in 1869 and became identified with the grain business in the city of Chicago, his residence in that great metropolis having continued until 1881, when with but limited financial resources but with determined ambition to make for himself a place of independence and cumulative prosperty, he came to Nebraska and established his permanent home in Hamilton county. In Chicago he had effected the purchase of a tract of Hamilton county land which he obtained from the Union Pacific Railroad Company and for which he paid five dollars per acre. This original purchase comprised one hundred and sixty acres. He and his wife established their home in a pioneer sod house of the type common to the locality and period and vigorously set themselves to the task of reclaiming their land and developing a productive farm. They endured their full share of the hardships incidental to pioneer life in this now favored section of Nebraska and with the passing years substantial and ever-increasing prosperity attended their earnest and well ordered endeavors. Mr. Gustafson is now the owner of a well improved property of three hundred and twenty acres, and in former years the area of his landed estate in the county was even greater than this. His present home farm, one of the excellent places of the county, he purchased for eight dollars an acre and this land he reclaimed from the virgin prairie. When he established his residence in Hamilton county the little farm home had as its nearest town the village of Chapman and his principal trading points were Central City and Grand Island. His brother, John Nordgren, then employed by the Union Pacific Railroad Company, aided him materially in the initial development of his first land, about ten Swedish families having come from Chicago and settled in this locality.

Mr. Gustafson has proved himself a thoroughgoing and progressive agriculturist and stock raiser and has been essentially loyal and liberal in his civic attitude, so that in all lines he has contributed his quota to the social and material development and upbuilding of Hamilton county, where he commands secure place in popular esteem. He gives his allegiance to the republican party and is an active member of the Swedish Mission church near his home, as was also his wife.

On the 6th of October, 1877, in the city of Chicago, Mr. Gustafson was united in marriage to Miss Helen Leontina Orre, daughter of Colonel John and Helen Orre, who were natives of Sweden and who came to the United States many years ago. Mrs. Gustafson passed to the life eternal August 10, 1912, a kindly and gracious woman whose memory is revered by all who came within the sphere of her influence. Mr. and Mrs. Gustafson became the parents of eight children: Mrs. Lydia Larson, whose husband is a prosperous farmer near Holdrege, Phelps county; Reuben, at home, is associated with his father in the work and management of the home farm; Joseph is a successful farmer in Hamilton county, and is married, as is also Benjamin, who is engaged in farm enterprise in Phelps

county; Rachel is, in 1921, a student in the business college at York, this state; Alma and John remain at the paternal home, and Theodore is at the time of this writing a student in the agricultural college of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln:

Mr. Gustafson has taken lively interest in all matters pertaining to the community welfare and while he has had no desire for public office his civic loyalty has been shown in his effective service as a member of the school board of his district, he having been both its treasurer and a director and his service having covered a long period of years.

J. W. WEEDIN

J. W. Weedin of Aurora, filling the office of district clerk and through prompt, capable and faithful discharge of duty winning the respect and good will of all who know him, was born near Princeton, in Bureau county, Illinois, August 18, 1875, a son of Andrew and Mary (Sandburg) Weedin, both of whom are natives of Sweden. Coming to the new world in 1868 they were married in Sweden and the father has since devoted his life to the occupation of farming. He removed to Hamilton county on the 5th of February, 1886, and rented land until he purchased eighty acres of land three miles northeast of Aurora in 1891 and in 1905 he took up his abode in the city, retaining the ownership of his farm, however, until the fall of 1919. In the meantime he had prospered, accumulating three hundred and sixty acres of excellent land, which he sold at two hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre for the two hundred acres and two hundred dollars per acre for the other one hundred and sixty acres. He and his wife are now enjoying well earned rest in Aurora and have the esteem and warm regard of many friends. They are members of the Swedish Mission church and Mr. Weedin belongs also to the Modern Woodmen of America, with which he has been identified for many years. In politics he is a democrat. To him and his wife have been born eight children, seven of whom are living: Katie, the wife of James Ling, a retired farmer residing at Loup City, Nebraska; J. W., of this review; Minnie, the wife of J. A. Johnson who is employed in a sash factory at Clinton, Iowa; Millie, the wife of E. A. Zartman, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, professor in the public schools of that city and teacher of penmanship; Fred, who is engaged in farming in Hamilton county, six miles from Aurora; Frank, who is a twin of Fred and resides on a farm near his brother; and Laura, the wife of Gregory Blomstrand, an Aurora druggist. Both Katie and Millie taught school for several years and the family has long been widely and prominently known in this section of the state.

J. W. Weedin obtained a high school education in Clinton, Iowa, and afterward took a course in the real estate and brokerage business through a correspondence school of Chicago. His first occupation was that of farming and he was foreman and manager of large farms in Minnesota. He remained in that state for about eleven years, leaving Hamilton county in 1896 and returning on the 23d of December, 1907. He then engaged in the real estate and insurance business, in

which he remained active until 1911. On the 4th of November of that year he was elected clerk of the district court and assumed the duties of the position January 4, 1912. So capably did he serve in that capacity that he was reelected in 1916 and once more in 1920, having no opposition at the last election. No higher testimonial of his capability and fidelity could be given than this statement.

On the 17th of July, 1913, Mr. Weedin was married to Miss Maude Ethel Saucer, who was born in Blackhawk county, Iowa, a daughter of Eugene H. Saucer, one of the early settlers of that state and a farmer who also conducted a dray line at New Hartford, Iowa. He was born in France, but the greater part of his life was spent on this side of the Atlantic. Mrs. Weedin was educated in the high school of Waterloo and in the State Normal and for three years engaged in teaching, after which she pursued a course in shorthand and was employed as a stenographer at Waterloo, Iowa, for six and a half years. By her marriage she has become the mother of one daughter, Gwyneth, now in her fifth year.

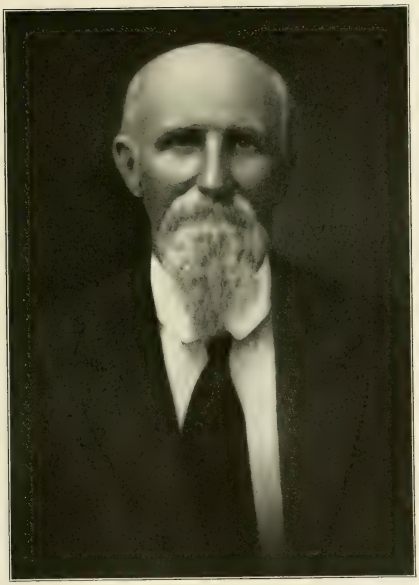
Mr. and Mrs. Weedin are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and his political endorsement is given to the democratic party. He owns his home in Aurora, together with one hundred and sixty acres of land thirty miles east of Denver, Colorado, in Arapahoe county. His possessions have been acquired entirely through his own efforts and ability and his course illustrates what can be accomplished when there is a will to dare and to do.

ISAAC N. CLARK.

No history of Sutton would be complete without extended reference to Isaac N. Clark, one of the founders of the town, numbered among its early merchants and actively identified with the real estate business for many years. He was also the first mayor of the town and his connection with Clay county has always been of a most beneficial and helpful character. Mr. Clark was born at Parma, Cuyahoga county, Ohio, June 18, 1836, and has therefore reached the eighty-fifth milestone on life's journey. His father, David Clark, was born in 1806 and when fifteen years of age went to work for Seth Thomas in his clock factory, being thus employed for three years. In 1830 he emigrated westward, settling at Parma, Ohio, where he purchased a tract of timber land which he cleared and improved. There he served as justice of the peace and was active in recruiting soldiers for the Civil war. He married Ximena Roberts, of Hartford, Connecticut, who was born in 1808, and proved a most devoted mother to their children.

Isaac N. Clark spent his youthful days in his native state and acquired his education in schools of Ohio. His residence in Sutton dates from 1872, at which time he came with his family to Nebraska, having previously been married in the Buckeye state. He embarked in business as a hardware merchant, and in 1873 admitted Samuel Carney, originally from Altoona, Pennsylvania, to a partnership, but at the end of about ten years Mr. Carney became sole proprietor. The

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ISAAC N. CLARK

stock of this pioneer hardware store that was handled during the first year was a full carload shipped from St. Joseph, Missouri, to a point on the unfinished Grand Island Railroad and thence transferred across the prairie to Sutton. After turning over the business to Mr. Carney Mr. Clark gave his attention to the real estate business. He was associated with Martin V. B. Clark in purchasing the unsold portion of the town site of Sutton in October, 1871. This they afterward had resurveyed and platted and set apart four blocks for a public park, which was dedicated as Clark Square and was deeded to the city of Sutton. Isaac N. Clark also platted Clark's addition to Sutton and Clark's second addition and most of the lots have since been sold, many attractive residences standing thereon. In the years which have come and gone his active operations in real estate have brought to him a substantial competence and at all times he has not only figured as a progressive business man of the city but has in every possible way aided in the development and upbuilding of this section of the state.

In early manhood Mr. Clark responded to the country's call for aid at the time of the Civil war and enlisted as a member of the Twenty-fifth Regiment of Illinois Infantry in June, 1861. He served as a corporal and did guard duty in St. Louis. He was discharged after weeks of illness and also on account of impaired eyesight. He has since maintained pleasant relations with his old army comrades through his membership in George G. Meade Post, G. A. R., of Nebraska, of which he has served as post commander and quartermaster.

At Cleveland, Ohio, Isaac N. Clark was united in marriage to Miss Mary Miner, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Miner, of Olmsted Falls, Ohio, who removed to the Buckeye state from West Farley, Vermont. When but fourteen years of age his daughter, Mary Miner, began teaching school and so continued to her marriage. Leaving Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. Clark removed to Champaign, Illinois, where they settled on a farm, and while there residing Mr. Clark filled the office of assessor and collector of taxes for two terms. In January, 1872, he left Illinois with his family and journeyed westward to Sutton, Nebraska, crossing the Missouri river on the ice. To Mr. and Mrs. Clark have been born five children: David and Harry M., twins, who were born January 12, 1864, but the former died at the age of five months; Myra E., born September 10, 1867; Albert W., March 28, 1869; and Roy N., born in Sutton, June 28, 1877. The son, Harry M. Clark, a native of Champaign, Illinois, was brought by his parents to Nebraska in January, 1872, and later he assisted his father in the survey and improvement of Clark's first and second additions to the city. He was for two years a student in the State University of Nebraska and for fifteen years he was in the train service of the St. Joseph & Grand Island Railroad Company. He is now collector for the American Electric Company of St. Joseph, Missouri. The only daughter of the family, Myra E. Clark, was graduated from the Sutton high school in June, 1885. Arrangements had been made whereby Chancellor Mannat of the State University attended the commencement exercises and the examinations which were held for a test in order to bring before the board of the State University the question of admitting to the university the students of the Sutton high school without further examination. Because of her creditable reports and markings in school, Myra E. Clark was the first to enter the State University without further examination. She was graduated from the univer-

sity in June, 1889, and afterward became the wife of David D. Forsyth, who took up the work of the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Forsyth was for ten years pastor and district superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal church at Denver, Colorado, and was elected corresponding secretary of the Home Missionary Society, with headquarters at Philadelphia. Mrs. Forsyth was also an active worker in the Woman's Department of Missionary Education, located at Philadelphia. In the summer of 1920, they visited Honolulu and the Hawaiian Islands and from the 20th of February until the 16th of March, 1921, were in Porto Rico in the interests of the Methodist Episcopal missionary work. Dr. Forsyth has been most active in behalf of the centenary canvass and the excellent work which he did for the Home Missionary Society during his first four years' term led to his reelection for an equal period in May, 1920. Rev. and Mrs. Forsyth have one son, James, who is in college, and a daughter, Margaret, who was graduated from Goucher College at Baltimore, Maryland, and from Columbia University of New York and is now at Smyrna, Asia Minor, where for two years she has been engaged in the work of the Young Woman's Christian Association. Albert W. Clark, the second son in the family of Mr. and Mrs. I. N. Clark, was born at Champaign, Illinois, March 28, 1869, and was therefore but about three years of age when the family home was established in Sutton, Nebraska. Here he was graduated from the high school and attended the State University for one year. He early engaged in the ice business, supplying ice for the entire town for a period of twenty years. He also served as a member of the board of supervisors of Clay county for twelve years and was president of the board for two years of that period. He was likewise elected and served as mayor of the city for the year 1919. He is now the manager of the Sutton Opera House and is also engaged in the real estate and insurance business. He married Mayme G. Wieden, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Wieden of Sutton, Nebraska. Roy N. Clark, the youngest of the family, was educated in the Sutton high school and afterward was employed by the Wells Fargo Express Company as express messenger for a period of four years. At this writing he is manager of the Clark farm near Sutton. He married Clara Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Anderson of Chanute, Kansas.

Mrs. Isaac N. Clark was born at West Farley, Vermont, June 27, 1838, and when a young girl removed to Olmsted Falls, Ohio. Later she became a successful school teacher, which profession she followed for eleven years. Coming to Sutton, Nebraska, in January, 1872, she was untiring in her devotion as a pioneer woman and was active in all that concerned the moral uplift of the community, assisting in organizing and raising money for the Sunday school and church. She was a loyal and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church for many years, and was also a member of the Woman's Relief Corps and the Order of the Eastern Star. After a useful and well spent life she passed away at her home in Sutton, July 6, 1916, at the age of seventy-eight years.

Mr. Clark is also an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is serving as a trustee. In politics he has always been a republican and in April, 1877, was elected the first mayor of Sutton upon its organization as a city of the second class. He discharged the duties of the position so capably

that he was reelected for a second term and he gave to the city a public-spirited and progressive administration. He belongs to Evening Star Lodge, No. 49, A. F. & A. M., in which he has been treasurer, to Sutton Chapter, No. 14, R. A. M., in which he has held the office of king; and to Solomon Council No. 10, R. & S. M., in which he has been recorder. In many connections he has been called upon for public service and his record has at all times been that of marked fidelity to duty and capability in the tasks put in his charge. For forty-nine years—almost a half century—Mr. Clark has been a resident of Sutton, and there is no man more familiar with its history or who has done more for development, progress and improvement here.

CYRUS C. DOBBS

Cyrus C. Dobbs, prominently known throughout Hamilton county by reason of his earnest and effective labors in the church and also through his connection with the Aurora Republican of which he is the editor, was born in Andrew county, Missouri, September 18, 1879, his parents being William and Elva P. (Spohn) Dobbs. The father was born in Missouri in 1855 and the mother in Ohio in 1851, while their marriage was celebrated in Nodaway county, Missouri, in 1875. They are now residing at Savannah, that state, and the father, who devoted many years to farming, has now put aside business cares and since 1912 has been enjoying well earned rest. He was a son of Russell Dobbs, who went from Tennessee with his brother to Missouri, making an overland trip. This brother, Fidille Dobbs, afterward settled in Gage county, Nebraska. The maternal grandfather of Cyrus C. Dobbs was Jonathan Spohn, a minister of the Dunkard faith. Both Mr. and Mrs. William Dobbs are members of the Christian church and his political support is given to the republican party. To him and his wife have been born five children, of whom four are living, namely: Inez, the wife of Joseph Jenkins, a farmer of Andrew county, Missouri; Cyrus C.; Clio, the wife of Samuel Sears who carries on agricultural pursuits in Andrew county, Missouri; and Leslie M., a teacher of St. Joseph, Missouri.

Cyrus C. Dobbs pursued his education in the public schools of his native county and afterwards took up the profession of teaching, which he there followed for five years. He entered upon preparation for the ministry at Bigelow, Missouri, and then became a student in Drake University at Des Moines, Iowa, where he pursued his studies from 1904 until 1907. He was graduated from the Bible department in the latter year and while in college acted as pastor at Bigelow, Missouri, from 1902 until 1904, and at Palestine and Ravenswood, Missouri, for a part of that time. In the fall of 1907 he went to Longmont, Colorado, where he filled a pastorate until the fall of 1912 and then accepted a call from the church at Scottsbluff, Nebraska, where he labored until 1914. He then worked as an evangelist out of Denver for six months and on the 1st of January, 1915, arrived in Aurora, Nebraska, since which time he has been pastor of the Christian church of this city. He is an earnest and convincing speaker and logical reasoner and has been untiring in his efforts to promote the interests of his denomination,

the church prospering greatly under his care. He has also edited the Aurora Republican for the last year and is thus gaining a still wider acquaintance through the community. He has occupied a number of church positions, such as state superintendent of the Christian Endeavor and member of the state board of the Churches of Christ in Colorado. For five years he was a member of the state board of the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society and for one year of that time acted as president of the board. He was also president of the Nebraska Christian Endeavor for two years and in fact has devoted the greater part of his life to the work of the church. He entered upon his labors in Aurora when the church had an indebtedness of over six thousand dollars. Through his untiring labor which has won the hearty cooperation of the people of the church and of the community he has not only paid off the indebtedness but has to the credit of the church five thousand dollars in the bank toward the erection of a new house of worship.

On the 11th of February, 1900, Elder Dobbs was married to Miss Ethel M. Kellogg, who was born in Andrew county, Missouri, a daughter of J. H. and Emma Kellogg, both natives of that county, where they spent their entire lives, the father there following the occupation of farming. They had a family of four children, of whom three are living: Fay O., who was graduated from the high school of Aurora at the age of eighteen years; Flo, who died in 1907 at the age of two years; Gurnie E., who is eleven years of age and is now in school; and Lenore E., nine years of age, the youngest of the family.

Mr. Dobbs is a member of the Masonic fraternity also the Brotherhood of American Yeomen and the Loyal Americans of the Republic. He is likewise connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. For a number of years he voted the prohibition ticket and is now a supporter of the republican party. He has always been a stanch advocate of the cause of temperance, doing everything in his power to do away with the use of intoxicants and his activities have been a most potent force in the advancement of high standards of life in the communities in which he has lived and labored and in the promotion of ideals among his fellowmen.

JOHN T. PRICE

The career of this sterling and representative citizen of Hamilton county has covered much of the pioneer period in the history of this county, within whose borders he established his home nearly half a century ago and in which he had the distinction of being the second person to serve as county superintendent of schools. His constructive powers touched effectively the civic and industrial development of the county and later he became prominently identified with similar pioneer service in Greeley county. He is now a venerable pioneer citizen who may well take satisfaction in reverting to the part which he has played in the progress of the great commonwealth of Nebraska. He is living virtually retired in the village of Phillips, Hamilton county, and it is pleasing to enter in this publication a succinct record of his career.

Mr. Price was born in Rush county, Indiana, on the 21st of November, 1845,

and is a son of Daniel and Sarah (Stewart) Price, both natives of the state of Ohio. The father early settled in Indiana and there he reclaimed and developed a farm in Rush county. In 1876 he became one of the pioneer settlers of Hamilton county, Nebraska, whither his son John T. had preceded him by about four years and he obtained land and took up his abode in a sod house of the type common to that early period, where he instituted the reclamation of his land to cultivation. Here he remained until his death at the venerable age of eighty-five years and his name merits enduring place on the roll of the honored pioneers of the county. His wife died in Indiana, at the age of fifty-two years, their children having been ten in number: Elizabeth, eldest of the children, died in June, 1920; Abbie and Christy likewise are deceased, as is also Jane, who died in 1920; John T., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Frances M. is a missionary in China; A. W., a railroad man, resides at University Place, near Lincoln, Nebraska; and D. E. is a resident of Grand Island, Hall county. He served as county commissioner of Hamilton county and secretary to Congressman Stark. The father was influential in public affairs in Hamilton county. Prior to coming to Nebraska he had been for a number of years a resident of Iowa.

The common schools of his native state afforded to John T. Price his early education, which was supplemented by his attendance at the Illinois Wesleyan University, at Bloomington. He became a successful teacher in the public schools of Illinois and it was in the spring of 1873 that he set forth from that state, with team and prairie schooner, to initiate his pioneer experiences in Nebraska. Nearly four weeks were required to complete the trip to Hamilton county, this state, he having crossed the Mississippi river at Burlington, Iowa, where a ferry transferred his team and wagon, a similar medium having been utilized in crossing the Platte river, at Plattsmouth, Nebraska. Mr. Price adjusted himself readily and effectively to pioneer conditions after his arrival in Hamilton county and that his ability along pedagogic lines did not long wait special recognition is shown in the fact that in the year of his arrival here he was chosen as the second incumbent of the office of county superintendent of schools, in which office he continued one term, or two years. He purchased one hundred and twenty acres of railroad land in the present Phillips precinct and paid for the same at the rate of three dollars an acre, the contract terms providing that the full payment should be completed within a period of ten years. On his land he erected a small frame house of primitive type, the lumber and other material used in its construction having been hauled overland from Grand Island, twenty-six miles distant. His original barns on the place were constructed of straw and he personally took charge of the breaking of his new prairie land and making the same available for cultivation. His experiences, many of which are more pleasing in retrospect then they were in realization, were those of the average pioneer of the locality and period and he recalls that in the early period of his residence here the bones of buffaloes were to be found scattered about the open prairies and that deer and antelopes were frequently seen.

Mr. Price continued his residence on the Hamilton county farm until 1881, when he amplified his pioneer activities by removing with his family to Greeley county, where, by taking up homestead and timber claims he became the owner of a tract of three hundred and twenty acres. He bent his energies to the improving of this

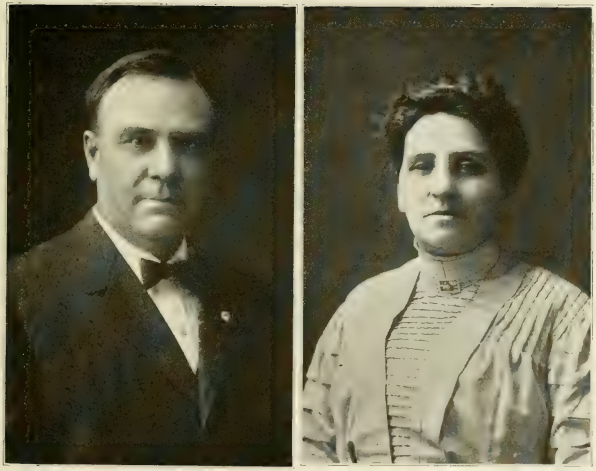
property and eventually perfected his title thereto. From the farm he finally removed to the village of Scotia, that county, where he effected the organization of the Greeley County Bank, of which he continued the vice president for the ensuing seven years. For three years thereafter he conducted the Walker House, a leading hotel at St. Paul, Howard county, and he then returned to Hamilton county and resumed his active association with farm enterprise. Here he remained from 1898 until 1907, in which latter year he removed to the city of Lincoln, in order to give to his children the advantages of the excellent educational institutions of the capital city. There he remained until 1914, after which he lived with his children, at different points in the state, until 1920, when he established his home at Phillips, where he remains as an honored citizen of the county in which he gained his initial experience as a pioneer of the state.

The year 1876 recorded the marriage of Mr. Price to Miss Nancy Lutz, who was born in Indiana and who was a resident of Hamilton county, Nebraska, at the time of her marriage. Like her husband Mrs. Price is an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of their children the eldest, Elizabeth, died August 19, 1912; Mary is the wife of Chris Husted, D. D. S., of Omaha; Georgia is the wife of Clarence Shahan, a commercial salesman of Omaha; and Ruth is the wife of D. M. Davis, a farmer in Wayne county, this state.

Mr. Price is a stalwart advocate of the principles of the republican party, and while a resident of Greeley county he served in various local offices, including those of justice of the peace and township assessor. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church and he is affiliated with both York and Scottish Rite bodies of the Masonic fraternity, in which he served eight years as master of the lodge of Free & Accepted Masons at Scotia and also at Phillips. Mr. Price has witnessed and taken part in the splendid civic and material development of Nebraska and in reverting to conditions in Hamilton county at the time of his arrival here he states that when he passed through Aurora, the present county seat, he found the town represented by a single house.

A. E. SIEKMANN

The business career of A. E. Siekmann should well serve to inspire and encourage others, showing what can be accomplished through individual effort, determination and ability. He came to Hamilton county in 1878 practically without means and at various periods has been identified with farming, real estate and banking. Mr. Siekmann came to Nebraska from Stephenson county, Illinois, where he was born May 5, 1855, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Siekmann. Mr. Siekmann attended the Lawrence University at Appleton, Wisconsin, and Rock River Seminary at Mt. Morris, Illinois, thus qualifying for life's practical and responsible duties. He was early trained to the work of the farm, soon becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. His attention when not in school was given to farm work in Illinois and in 1878 he came to Hamilton county where he lived on the farm until 1888 when he removed to Aurora and turned his attention to real estate and insurance. In



MR. AND MRS. A. E. SIEKMANN

1905 he entered banking circles, becoming a stockholder and the president of the Fidelity National Bank, since which time he has remained as the chief executive of the institution. The careful management of his business affairs and the simple weight of his character and ability have carried him into important business relations.

In 1879 Mr. Siekmann was united in marriage to Miss Virgilia Fox, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Fox of Stephenson county, Illinois.

Mr. Siekmann is most prominently known through his connection with the Royal Highlanders. He was one of the organizers of the fraternity in 1896 and has since served as its chief treasurer. The order has made an excellent showing from the beginning and is steadily growing along substantial lines.

Politically Mr. Siekmann believes in the party of Lincoln, McKinley, Roosevelt and Harding.

C. C. FRAIZER

C. C. Fraizer, who is engaged in law practice in Aurora where he took up his abode in 1917, becoming a partner in the firm of Hainer, Craft, Edgerton and Fraizer, was born in Montpelier, Indiana, a son of A. J. and Amelia (Cooper) Fraizer who were likewise natives of the Hoosier state where they were reared and married. They still reside within the borders of that state, now making their home at Muncie, Indiana, and from early manhood Mr. Fraizer has devoted his attention to the drug business. The father and his wife are members of the Christian church and he is a faithful follower of the teachings of Masonry, of the Knights of Pythias, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His political endorsement is given to the republican party. To him and his wife have been born two children: C. C. of this review, and Joseph H., who is now in school in Los Angeles, California. In tracing the ancestral record still farther it is learned that Abraham Fraizer, the grandfather of C. C. Fraizer, was one of the early settlers of Indiana, where he took up farming in pioneer times and the maternal grandfather, Robert Cooper, also established his home on the frontier of Indiana.

C. C. Fraizer mastered the work of the grades and of the high school at Muncie, Indiana, being graduated with the class of 1910. It was his desire to become a member of the bar and with that end in view he studied law in the University of Pennsylvania from 1910 until 1911 and then completed his studies in the George Washington University, at Washington, D. C., the year of his graduation there being 1914. He at once entered upon active practice in the national capital where he remained for three years, and in 1917 he arrived in Aurora where he became a partner of the present firm of Hainer, Craft, Edgerton & Fraizer. He is thus connected with one of the strong law combinations of the city, a firm that enjoys an extensive clientage of an important character. Mr. Fraizer has served as deputy county attorney of Hamilton county and also as city attorney of Aurora and he devotes his entire attention to his professional interests and duties.

In October, 1916, Mr. Fraizer was married to Miss Nelle McCarthy, a native of Muncie, Indiana, who there attended the high school, graduating in 1911, while

later she continued her education at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, and was graduated from the University of Denver. She taught school for a year in Wyoming and is recognized as a lady of liberal culture and innate refinement. To Mr. and Mrs. Fraizer has been born one son, Theodore J., now two years of age.

Mr. Fraizer is a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon, a college fraternity. He served with the intelligence department of the navy during the World war, enlisting in June, 1918. He was stationed at Chicago where he remained the entire time until discharged on the 1st of January following. He is a member of the American Legion. His political endorsement has always been given to the republican party and he has kept thoroughly informed concerning governmental problems, having during six years of residence in Washington made a special study of the national government.

GEORGE C. EATON

When cognizance is taken of the fact that George C. Eaton was born on the farm which is his present place of residence and that the date of his nativity was January 10, 1878, it becomes evident that he is a representative of a family whose name has been linked with the history of Hamilton county since the early pioneer days. The excellent farm which now challenges his most vigorous and progressive activities as an agriculturist and stock raiser is situated in section 6, Hamilton township, and is one of the well improved properties of the county. George K. Eaton, father of George C. Eaton, came from Lee county, Iowa, to Hamilton county, Nebraska, in the year of 1872, and in Hamilton township took up a homestead of eighty acres of unbroken prairie land. He erected a sod house and made other preliminary provisions essential to the primitive demands of the pioneer district in which he thus established his home, and while he endured his full share of the hardships and trials of the early days his staying qualities and persistent efforts eventually brought to him a generous measure of prosperity, the while he gained inviolable place in popular esteem and was honored as one of the sterling pioneers and constructive workers of Hamilton county. Here he continued his residence until his death, which occurred on the 3d of January, 1918, his wife having preceded him in 1906.

George C. Eaton was reared on the farm which is now his home and in addition to receiving the advantages of the local schools he attended the Nebraska State Normal School at Fremont. At the age of twenty-seven years he assumed the active charge and management of the old home farm and his finely improved estate now comprises two hundred and forty acres, devoted to diversified agriculture and the raising of good types of live stock. In connection with him there can be no application of the scriptural aphorism that "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country," for he has been essentially the prophet and apostle of progress in his native county and has proved himself qualified for no little leadership in public affairs, the while he commands unqualified confidence and respect, as shown in the fact that he has been called upon to serve as a member of the board of county commissioners, in which position he has been the advocate and loyal supporter of progressive measures and enterprises and of which body he served as

chairman in 1920. He is a stanch republican and he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

In the year 1913 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Eaton to Miss Edna Newell, and they have four children: Sidney, Margaret, Clare, and Harold.

J. L. EVANS

Prominent among the energetic, farsighted and successful business men of Aurora is J. L. Evans, bank president and manager of the telephone company. He was born in Centerville, Iowa, December 28, 1860, his parents being Jesse and Rhoda A. (Martin) Evans, the former a native of Pennsylvania, while the latter was born in Illinois. They were married, however, in Iowa, to which state Mrs. Evans removed with her parents in 1836 when it was a frontier region, and in 1856 Mr. Evans took up his abode within its borders. He devoted his life to farming in Iowa and there resided until 1873 when he came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, and located a homestead six miles south of Aurora. Upon this he built a small frame house and here he and his wife reared their family, his attention being given to the development of the farm until his life's labors were ended in death in 1889. The mother died at the home of her son, J. L. Evans, on an adjoining farm in 1899. Mr. Evans was a member of the Church of God while his wife had membership in the United Brethren church. In politics he was a prohibitionist, doing everything in his power to advance the cause of temperance and bring about the abolishment of the liquor traffic. He served in the Civil war as a member of Company F, Eighth Iowa Cavalry, for a period of two years and throughout his entire life manifested the same loyalty and patriotic attitude toward his country that he displayed when he followed the stars and stripes on the battlefields of the south. The family came from Pennsylvania, for it was in that state that Daniel Evans, the grandfather, was born and made his home until called to his final rest. The maternal grandfather, Samuel Martin, was born in Kentucky and in early life went to Illinois, while in 1836 he became one of the pioneers of Iowa and took up the task of developing wild land into a cultivated farm. Upon the frontier of Iowa his daughter, Mrs. Evans, was reared and by her marriage she became the mother of three children: J. L., of this review; Rhoda A., the widow of Jacob Sherer and now a resident of Payette, Idaho; and Clara Belle, the wife of T. W. Condon, a fruit rancher of Garden Grove, California. Both Mr. and Mrs. Evans had been previously married and she had four children by her first marriage, of whom two are living: J. S. Bickford, a carpenter of Oregon; and Ruth A. Porter, living in Clearfield, Iowa. By his first marriage Mr. Evans had seven children, of whom three are living: John, a retired rancher residing in Oklahoma; Mrs. Margaret Stewart, a widow of California; and Edward, who is a retired rancher living at Orange, California.

J. L. Evans was quite young when brought to Nebraska and obtained his education in the common schools of Hamilton county. His youthful experiences were those of the farm bred boy who early becomes familiar with the work of the fields and the best methods of caring for the crops and the live stock. He remained

upon the home farm until 1909 and then removed to Aurora. Here he has engaged in banking, becoming identified with the Farmers' State Bank, of which he has been the president for ten years. He supports a safe, conservative policy in the conduct of the bank and in financial affairs displays sound judgment and keen discrimination. In 1914 he became connected with the office of the Hamilton County Farmers' Telephone Association as manager and is now devoting the greater part of his attention to the telephone business but still owns four hundred acres of well improved and valuable farm land in Hamilton county, from which he derives a very gratifying annual income.

In 1882 Mr. Evans was married to Miss Mary J. Denton, a native of Illinois, whose parents were among the early settlers of that state, removing to the Mississippi valley from the state of New York. To Mr. and Mrs. Evans have been born three children: Ralph L., who is located on his father's farm; Francis J., a farmer residing at Aurora; and Grace, a high school pupil. Mrs. Evans belongs to the United Brethren church. Mr. Evans is identified with the Royal Highlanders and with the Modern Woodmen of America. He formerly gave his political support to the populist party and is now a democrat but with independent tendencies. He served for one term in the state legislature, having been elected on the populist ticket in 1909. His interest in public affairs has always been of a helpful nature and his progressiveness has contributed to the upbuilding and benefit of the state along material, intellectual, social and moral lines. Moreover, his life record indicates what can be accomplished through individual effort, for it is by industry, perseverance and capability that Mr. Evans has reached a position among the substantial and prosperous citizens of Hamilton county.

FRANCIS A. MILLSAP

The conditions and incidents of the pioneer era in the history of Hamilton county have left a definite impression upon the memory and appreciation of Francis A. Millsap, who was a vigorous youth of seventeen years at the time when the family home was established here nearly a half century ago and he has used his ability and powers so effectively as to gain high standing as one of the successful exponents of the agricultural and live stock industry in this section of the state. He is a member of one of the most honored pioneer families of the county and the name of his father is here held in specially reverent memory, owing to the fact that he brought to bear his fine intellectual powers and fervent Christian faith in aiding and uplifting his fellowmen throughout this part of Nebraska in the early days, having been a clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal church and for a time the only local Christian minister in Hamilton county. His life was one of consecrated zeal and devotion and while he did not achieve great temporal prosperity, his was the broader success of noble service and true human helpfulness.

Francis A. Millsap was born in Hancock county, Illinois, on the 24th day of August, 1855, and is a son of Rev. William L. and Matilda E. Millsap. The father was born in the state of Tennessee and was a child when his parents numbered themselves among the pioneer settlers of Indiana, where he was reared and educated

and whence he eventually removed to Illinois, where he engaged in farm enterprise. Later he removed with his family to Iowa, where he continued his residence sixteen years and not only engaged in farming but also gave effective service as a minister of the Methodist church. In October, 1872, he and his family drove overland from Iowa to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he filed claim to a homestead of eighty acres, in section 2, township 12, range 5, in what is now Otis township. The following spring he purchased eighty acres of railroad land in the same locality and here, amid the most primitive of pioneer conditions and influences, instituted the reclamation of a productive farm from the unbroken prairie land. The family made the journey to Nebraska with teams and wagons, and the son, Francis A., walked such portion of the distance as he did not cover by riding horseback, five horses having been brought from Iowa, but no other live stock. On his embryonic farm the father, with the aid of his sons, built a sod house with sod roof and dirt floor, and as this medium of construction was new to them no little perplexity and difficulty were experienced before the rude building was made ready for habitation. Here the family experienced the full force of the historic Easter blizzard of April, 1873, when this entire section of the state was virtually snowbound for three days. Francis A. Millsap assumed practically the entire active management of the home farm the second year, when he was eighteen years of age and found pleasure in his various hunting expeditions in the new country, where antelopes, deer, prairie chickens and wild geese were plentiful. He relieved his father of the many cares and labors of the pioneer farm and the latter gave the major part of his time to Christian service and the furtherance of the general civic interests of the community. He was one of the revered and patriarchal pioneer citizens of Hamilton county at the time of his death in 1892, after he had passed his eighty-eighth birthday, his devoted wife having passed away at the age of sixty-nine years, a gentle and gracious woman, who effectively supplemented the service of her husband and who upheld in her home the highest ideals of culture, refinement and hospitality. Rev. William L. Millsap was the first moderator of the first school district organized in Otis township, this district, known as No. 18, was eight miles in length and the first schoolhouse was erected in July, 1873—a frame building sixteen by twenty-four feet. He organized several Methodist churches in this part of the state, including those at North Blue, Kingston and one in the Dory district in York county. He spared himself no labors nor hardships in carrying forward his ministrations as a clergyman in the pioneer community. He drove long distances and held services in various private homes throughout this section of the state, and became guide, counselor and friend to many families that later were prominent and influential. He and his family suffered their share of losses through drought, grasshoppers, prairie fires, etc, and he and his sons had occasion to aid in fighting back a number of prairie fires.

Francis A. Millsap gained his early education principally in the public schools of Iowa, besides having the fortifying influences of a home of distinctive culture and refinement. As previously stated he soon assumed active management of the pioneer farm, with the activities of which he continued to be identified until he was about twenty-five years of age. He finally purchased the old Burtwell homestead, in section 2, Otis township, where he has since maintained his residence. He bought this property from his brother who had purchased it from Mr. Burtwell,

the original owner. Mr. Millsap has made this one of the model farms of the county, has improved it with modern buildings, and on his present valuable estate of three hundred and fifty-seven acres, he has provided two complete sets of farm buildings. He has been emphatically a progressive and vigorous representative of the agricultural and live stock industry, has contributed through his labors to the general development and upbuilding of the county and in all of the relations of life has well upheld the prestige of the honored family name.

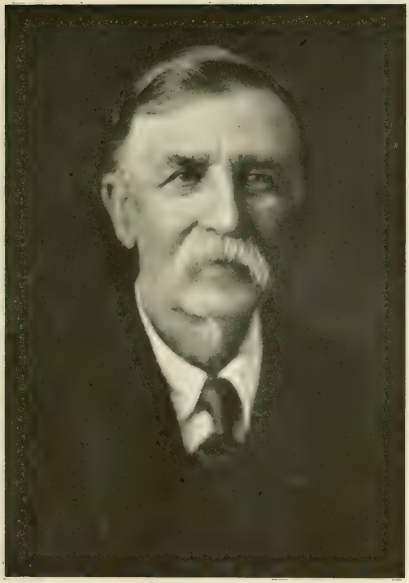
In April, 1886, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Millsap to Miss Marie E. Wildman, who was born in Ohio, and who was a resident of Hamilton county, Nebraska, at the time of her marriage, her parents having passed the closing years of their lives in Ohio and her father never having resided in Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Millsap have four children: Mark I. resides on and has charge of the old homestead farm of his paternal grandfather; Ruth is the wife of Frank J. Zimmerman of Deuel county; and Paul and Lois remain at the parental home, which is widely known for its generous and unostentatious hospitality.

Mr. Millsap is a republican in politics, has served as justice of the peace and except for an interim of three years he has held the office of treasurer of school district No. 18 since 1877. He and his family are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Hordville.

DANIEL FYE

One of the fine farm properties in the north central part of Hamilton county is that belonging to Daniel Fye, an honored pioneer citizen since the year 1872, and the original homestead on which he still resides, in section 32, was the first one on which entry was filed within the present limits of South Platte township. Thus it may readily be understood that he was numbered among the very first of the sturdy and determined pioneers who instituted the work of development and progress in that township and is one who has played effectively his part in the civic and industrial upbuilding of Hamilton county and who has stood the exemplar of loyal and upright citizenship. He was born in Cambria county, Pennsylvania, on the 9th of May, 1843, and is a son of Conrad and Sarah Fye, both natives of the old Keystone state, where they continued their residence until about 1845, when they removed to Illinois and established their home in Stephenson county, where the father obtained land and developed a productive farm, both he and his wife having passed the remainder of their lives in that state, where he died at the age of eighty-four years and his widow at the age of eighty-seven years.

Daniel Fye was two years old at the time of the family removal to Illinois, where rudimentary education was acquired in the rural schools, principally during the winter terms, when his services were not in demand in connection with the work of the home farm. His youthful patriotism was exemplified in his eighteen months of service as a soldier of the Union in the Civil war, he having enlisted as a member of Company H, Twenty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which command he participated in numerous conflicts on the battle fields



DANIEL FYE

of the south and with which he accompanied Sherman's forces on the historic march from Atlanta to the sea, on through the Carolinas and thence to Washington, D. C., where he participated in the Grand Review of the victorious troops at the close of the war. His continued interest in his old comrades is indicated by his affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic.

After the close of the war Mr. Fye followed the work of the carpenter's trade and also was engaged in farming about two years in Illinois. In 1872, with a wagon and team of horses he drove through to Iowa, where his brother J. D. was then residing, and there he traded his horses for three yoke of oxen, with which plodding animals he completed the journey to Hamilton county, Nebraska, his progress on this trip having been at the rate of about fifteen miles a day, much of the way over the unbroken prairies through which no definite roads had been made. Upon his arrival he filed entry on the first homestead in South Platte township and in that same spring a number of other settlers from Illinois here established their residence, the mutual interests and neighborly consideration of the early settlers being shown in their helpfulness to each other, especially in the constructing of habitations and other preliminary work which a settler could not well compass alone. After selecting his homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, Mr. Fye and his wife lived in their covered wagon until he could complete the little frame house, which was twelve by fourteen feet in dimensions, two days having been required to complete the trips to and from Sutton, where the lumber for the modest house was obtained. Another prerequisite was the digging of a well and barns of the sod type were soon added to the pioneer farm equipment, while fuel was obtained principally from trees along the Platte river. The Fye home became a popular stopping place for travelers passing through this section, and its hospitality was in inverse proportion to its limited accomodations. Mr. and Mrs. Fye arrived in time to witness the great Easter blizzard of 1873, a storm that held this section of the state snowbound for three days. This storm has gone on record as one of the worst in the history of Hamilton county. At the time when Mr. Fye here established his home the present county seat, Aurora, had but one store, two days were required to make the trip to and from the nearest mill, and antelopes and deer were much in evidence in this locality. The Fye farm suffered from the grasshopper plague in the later '70s, and, like the other farms of the county, Mr. Fye lost about all of his crops. It required courage and determined purpose to endure the trials and hardships of the early days and the pioneers who have remained have well merited the ample success that had rewarded their efforts in connection with the development of the great natural resources of this now favored section of Nebraska. Now venerable in years, Mr. Fye has retired from the labors and responsibilities that were long his portion and the finely improved farm is now under active management of his only surviving son, with whom he lives.

In Illinois, in 1870, Mr. Fye was married to Miss Louise Fue, who was born and reared in that state and who proved his devoted companion and helpmeet during the pioneer days in Nebraska. Their children are: Charles W., the elder, who was born in 1871 and died in 1916; and Ira D., the younger son, who has active charge of the old home farm. The Fye farm estate now comprises

one hundred and sixty acres. The widow of Charles W. is now using eighty acres of the homestead.

Mr. Fye is a stalwart supporter of the cause of the republican party and while never desirous of public office, he gave fifteen years of effective service as treasurer of school district No. 63. He holds membership in the United Brethren church, as did also his devoted wife, who died in February, 1916, at the age of seventy-two years.

CHARLES A. VOORHEES

Charles A. Voorhees, prominent in the banking circles of Edgar, as president of the Clay County State Bank, was born at Pennington, Mercer county, New Jersey, January 17, 1854, a son of Isaac and Helen (Hunt) Voorhees, both natives of New Jersey. The great-grandfather of Charles Voorhees was Abraham Voorhees, a native of Holland, who was given a land title by King George of England. His son Jacob, the grandfather of our subject, was born in New Jersey and there passed his entire life, a successful and prominent man. The Hunt family are of English lineage, the first members of that family having made their homes in New Jersey. Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Voorhees were married in their native state, where they lived until death, the father being a progressive and successful farmer. They were the parents of three children, of whom Charles A. is the only one living. Throughout their lives they were consistent members of the Presbyterian church and Isaac Voorhees was a stanch supporter of the republican party.

In the acquirement of an education Charles A. Voorhees attended the schools of his native state and after putting his textbooks aside engaged in farming the homestead until he was twenty-eight years of age. At that time he decided to come west and on the 12th of April, 1882, he arrived in Edgar, where he has since remained. For a time he engaged in the loan business but in the fall of 1882 he commenced banking, having erected a small brick building. He has devoted his entire time to his banking interests and is now the president of the Clay County Bank of Edgar, being a most popular official and doing everything in his power to promote the interests of the bank and protect the rights of its depositors and its stockholders. The bank has a capital stock of twenty-five thousand, profits and surplus of eight thousand and average deposits of three hundred thousand dollars.

On the 15th of November, 1877, occurred the marriage of Mr. Voorhees and Miss Lucy A. Titus, a native of New Jersey and a daughter of Noah and Louisa Titus. Her father was a successful farmer and died on the home place in New Jersey. Five children have been born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Voorhees, namely: Fred, who is cashier of the Clay County State Bank; Bertha, who is the wife of Orvil C. Johnson of Idaho, where he is engaged in farming; Olita, now the wife of Frank Johnson, a dentist of Twin Falls, Idaho; Clair, who is assistant cashier in the bank; and Edward R., also an employe of the bank.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Voorhees the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the republican party and the principles for which it stands. His religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church and fraternally he is identified with the Knights Templars. For five years he served as master of his lodge in Edgar, that being the longest term of service ever required of one man. The

success that Mr. Voorhees has achieved is the result of determined effort on his part. Progress and improvement find expression in his life and his enterprise has carried him into successful and important business relations. He is indeed a representative citizen of Edgar and one of whom any community would be proud.

AUGUST H. REISER

In section 9 of Deepwell township, Hamilton county, is to be found the well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, that in its appearance and definite productiveness gives evidence of the success that has attended the well ordered industry of its owner. This farm represents the concrete evidence of the admirable achievement of August H. Reiser and shows that he has made good use of the opportunities and advantages that have been afforded him in the state of his adoption. He was born in Germany in the year 1860, was there reared and educated and was a sturdy young man of resolute purpose when, in 1884, he came to the United States, where he felt assured of winning eventual independence through his own ability and efforts. Soon after his arrival he came to Nebraska and for a time was employed at farm work in the vicinity of Grand Island. He also worked in brickyards at a wage of one dollar a day. Upon coming to Hamilton county he found employment on the farm of James Kirkpatrick, near Phillips, hiring out by the year and receiving sixteen dollars a month for his services. This work engrossed his attention three years and in 1888 he went to Perkins county and took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres. He put up a shanty to live in and then set himself to the work of breaking the soil of his embryonic farm. He there remained two years and then returned to Hamilton county and resumed his service as a farm employe. In 1892 he married and thereafter was engaged in farming on rented land, this having been in the drought years of 1893 and 1894, when crops were almost a total failure in this section of the state. In reward for his efforts in one of these dry years he was able to harvest only nine bushels of corn and four bushels of potatoes. Within a short time after this experience he purchased his present farm, on which had been erected a small frame house and barn. He planted native trees, including cedars and also set out an orchard. As the years brought increasing prosperity Mr. Reiser brought his farm up to a high standard, with excellent buildings and other permanent evidences of thrift and progressiveness. He is thus to be designated as one of the representative agriculturists and stock raisers of Deepwell township and is a citizen who has secure place in community confidence and esteem.

In 1892 Mr. Reiser married Miss Louise Sundermeier, and of their family of twelve children nine are living: Emma is the wife of Otto Tuenge, of Grand Island; Edward represented Hamilton county in the nation's military service in the World war, having been called into service on the 28th of May, 1918, and having received his preliminary training at Camp Dodge, Iowa, and Camp Mills, New York. From Philadelphia he sailed with his command in the latter part of July, 1918, and as a member of Company C, Three Hundred and Thirty-ninth Machine Gun Corps he was ten months in active service in Alsace-Lorraine, his command having been a part of the Eighty-eighth Division of the American Expedi-

tionary Forces in France. He finally was returned to his native land and at Camp Dodge received his honorable discharge on the 7th of June, 1919, his record as a gallant young soldier of his native land having been such as to reflect lasting honor upon his name and his native state. He is now associated with his father in the activities of the home farm. At the parental home remain also the seven other children, namely: Matilda, Carl, Theodore R., Elsie, Homer, William and Viola.

Mr. Reiser is a stockholder in the Farmers' Grain Elevator at Phillips and from that village his home receives service on a rural mail route. He served eight years as moderator of the school board of his district and has otherwise shown loyal interest in community affairs. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Lutheran church.

FRANK L. MUNN

For many years Frank L. Munn, now deceased, was active in the agricultural circles of Hamilton county and his death on July 8, 1914, came as a severe shock to his many friends. Born in New York city August 11, 1849, he went with his parents to Wisconsin when a small boy and made his home on a farm. He received his education in the country schools of the vicinity, the schoolhouses being primitive structures of logs with wooden benches for seats. In 1862 Mr. Munn enlisted in the Civil war, running away from his home in Adams county. He became a member of Company H, Eleventh Wisconsin Infantry, with the rank of sergeant and served in this capacity throughout the war. At its close he returned to Wisconsin but soon after removed to Iowa where he rented land which he operated successfully for seven years. In 1872, deciding to settle in the west, he located in Hamilton county after a twenty day trip with mule team and wagon. The Missouri was crossed by ferry at Nebraska City. He homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres and his first home on this land was a small shanty, the lumber for which was hauled from Harvard. His barn was made of straw. The land at the time of homesteading was nothing but prairie, but Mr. Munn broke it himself and brought it to a high state of cultivation. During the blizzard of 1873 he was snowed in three days but was fortunate in not losing any cattle. Mr. Munn took his grist to the mill at Grand Island and his provisions were hauled from Hastings, the trips being of difficult and tedious nature, due to the fact that at that early date there were no well defined roads running through that section of the country. During the grasshopper storms his crops were totally destroyed and Mr. and Mrs. Munn remember seeing the grasshoppers so thick that it was impossible to see the sun. Many Indians strayed past the ranch, asking for food and the hospitality received at the hands of Mr. Munn became well known throughout the county. The surrounding country was full of deer, antelopes and other game and at one time when on a deer hunt with some neighbors, Mr. Munn brought back twenty-two deer. At the time of his death Mr. Munn was in possession of four hundred acres of well improved land with forest trees and small orchard. His widow is now in possession of the homestead. In 1910 Mr. Munn retired from active farm life and removed to Trumbull, where he took an active part in civic affairs. He was one of the organizers of a school and for some years served as a

board member. On the 8th of July, 1914, his death occurred and a deep feeling of bereavement swept the town and county in which he had so long resided.

In April, 1866, Mr. Munn was married to Miss Mary Palmer, a native of New York, who removed to Wisconsin with her parents when six years of age. Her parents were Alvah and Harriett (Taylor) Palmer and her mother lived to the advanced age of ninety-two years. Mr. and Mrs. Munn became the parents of six children: Wallace, who lives in Hastings; Leon, now at home; Nellie, the wife of Henry Benson; Nora, the wife of John Kingston; Chester A., who runs the home farm; and Samuel, who died when eleven months old.

Throughout his life Mr. Munn was a stanch supporter of the democratic party, being a firm believer in the principles of that party as factors in good government. He was active in the affairs of the Grand Army of the Republic, being a member of the Harvard Post. Mrs. Munn is very active in the charitable and social affairs of the Methodist Episcopal church. Hamilton county lost a representative citizen in the passing of Mr. Munn and his place in the community has left a void that will not be easily filled.

HENRY ROSS

Before the great empire of Russia had been scourged by warfare that brought about its national disintegration, it had contributed many excellent citizens to the state of Nebraska, and among the number was George and Catherine (Koehler) Ross, who established their home in Clay county, this state, when their son Henry was thirteen years of age, his birth having occurred in Russia on the 14th of July, 1864, and in 1878 the family arrived in Clay county. There the father rented land and became a pioneer farmer and to assist further in providing for his family he was employed for some time at railroad work. He finally purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and there continued his activities as one of the industrious farmers of Clay county until his death in 1893 at the age of fifty-three years, his widow being now a resident of Hastings, Adams county.

Henry Ross gained his initial knowledge of the English language after the family came to Nebraska, and he persisted in his efforts until he was able to read and write as well as speak the language, besides which he improved every opportunity to familiarize himself with the customs and economic policies of the land. He continued to be associated with his father in the work of the home farm until he had attained the age of twenty-five years, when he came to Hamilton county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unbroken land, in Orville township. He here built a little frame house, fourteen by twenty-two feet in dimensions, his first stable was constructed of poles and straw, and he made a dugout to serve as shelter for his chickens. Mr. Ross dug a well on his farm and his wife effectively aided him by hoisting the excavated earth with a windlass. He broke most of his land with his team of horses and a breaking plow of the type commonly used and with unfaltering industry applied himself to the cultivating and improving of his farm, with the result that his labors were attended with increasing success, as shown in the fact that he is now the owner of a well improved farm property of three hundred and sixty acres, the modern buildings and the

general evidences of thrift and prosperity marking the owner as a sagacious, vital and progressive exponent of agricultural and live stock industry. Success thus won is ever worthy of commendation and Mr. Ross has proved himself true and loyal in all the relations of life, besides having gained high repute as one of the world's productive workers. He and his wife had their share of trials and perplexities in connection with life on the pioneer farm, but their present prosperity fully compensates them for all they thus endured. In addition to his home farm estate of three hundred and sixty acres Mr. Ross has increased his holdings until he is now the owner of an aggregate of seven hundred and fourteen acres of land in Hamilton county, the same being improved with three sets of buildings. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Co-operative Company which owns the grain elevator at Eldorado and is a stockholder also in the Hamilton County Telephone Company. He served six years as a member of the school board of his district and has otherwise been loyal and liberal in the furtherance of community interests in general. He and his wife are active members of the Mennonite church.

In Clay county was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Ross to Miss Catherine Brehm, who likewise is a native of Russia, and they became the parents of fourteen children: Henry W., Sarah, David, Rosa, Hannah, Elma, Reuben, Emma, Samuel, Rachel, Elda, Tena, Herbert, and Jona. All are living except Henry, who died December 16, 1918.

SAMUEL B. OTTO

Samuel B. Otto, living on section 18, Aurora township, has one of the beautiful and well improved farms in Hamilton county and is one of the most successful modern farmers and stock raisers in his section of the state. He is very active in all civic affairs and is a representative citizen of the county, where he has many friends.

Samuel B. Otto was born in McLean county, Illinois, on the 17th of October, 1862, and there received his common school education. In due time he entered a business college and after putting his textbooks aside engaged in farming on his own account at the age of twenty-four. In 1904 Mr. Otto came to Hamilton county and purchased his present farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Aurora township. His farm is one of the finest improved places in the county and he devotes it to the raising and feeding of cattle, which are of the best grade. For many years Mr. Otto has served as school director in his district and has not been active in agricultural circles alone. He is president of the Aurora Elevator Company, president of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, president of the Aurora Cooperative Creamery Company, and is a member of the executive board of the Hamilton County Farm Bureau, to the interests of which he devotes a large amount of his time.

Mr. Otto has been married three times. In Illinois on the 23d of February, 1887, occurred the first marriage, when he chose Mary S. Basting as his wife. Three children were born to that union: Mabel A., Roy B., and Ralph D. The first Mrs. Otto passed away in December, 1893, and on January 5, 1895, Mr.



MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL B. OTTO

Otto was again wed, this time to Sarah Baumetz, and they became the parents of two daughters: Grace and Violet. The second Mrs. Otto passed away in May, 1901, and on the 5th of June, 1902, Mr. Otto was married to Miss Marguerita Baumetz, a sister of his second wife. Two children have been born to the latter union: Raymond E., who was born June 14, 1906; and Alta Louise M., whose birth occurred on the 30th of October, 1910.

The religious faith of the Otto family is that of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Otto is a generous contributor to all of its charitable institutions. Mr. Otto is a man of high principles, sterling personal wealth and integrity. He is indeed a representative citizen of Hamilton county and one of whom the community may be justly proud.

B. O. BERGESON

For a long period B. O. Bergeson was actively connected with agricultural pursuits but at length retired from farming and is now making his home in Aurora. The appreciation of his capability and trustworthiness on the part of his fellow townsmen led to his election to the office of county assessor and he is now filling that position. He was born in Norway, January 31, 1852, and is a son of Ola and Rachel (Runestad) Bergeson, both natives of Norway, whence they came to the new world, settling in LaSalle county, Illinois, in 1856. There the father purchased a farm upon which he and his wife spent their remaining days. They had a family of six children: B. O.; Erasmus, living near Earlville, Illinois; Mrs. Malinda Thompson, whose husband is a retired farmer of Paxton, Illinois; John, a physician of Boston, Massachusetts, who is specializing on diseases of the eye, ear and nose; S. E., a banker and merchant of Bismarck, North Dakota; and Mrs. Mary Dahl, whose husband is a merchant of Paxton, Illinois. Having lost his first wife the father was married a second time and there were six children of that union, of whom five survive: Anson, now a retired farmer living in Iowa; Julia, the wife of Thomas Sawyer, a capitalist of Humboldt, Iowa; Borem, a farmer and banker living at St. Cloud, Minnesota; Nelson, a farmer and grain dealer and shipper located at Swea City, Iowa; and Eddie, who is engaged in farming at Swea City. The father was a member of the Lutheran church and its teachings were a guiding force in his life. His political endorsement was given to the republican party. In his business affairs he displayed thoroughness and capability and won success as the years passed on.

B. O. Bergeson was but four years of age when brought by his parents to the new world and in the district schools of Illinois he pursued his early education, which was supplemented by two or three terms' study in Pawpaw College at Pawpaw, Illinois. When his textbooks were put aside he concentrated his efforts and attention upon farming and for many years carried on general agricultural pursuits. In 1876 he arrived in Hamilton county, Nebraska, and purchased one thousand acres of land soon after reaching this state. This was school land for which he paid five dollars per acre. He built thereon a frame house and occupied the farm

until his removal to Aurora in 1912. In the meantime he had transformed the place into rich and productive fields, from which he annually gathered good harvests and his careful management of his farming interests brought to him gratifying prosperity. He sold his land until he now owns four hundred and twenty-five acres in three different farms and three sets of buildings. The early days, however, were fraught with hardships and difficulties and he said that in the first few years of his residence in Nebraska he had scarcely enough money to buy a three-cent postage stamp. He persevered, however, in the work of general farming, also bought and shipped stock of all kinds and raised feed. As the years passed his industry and diligence brought to him a measure of success that was most gratifying and he is now numbered among the men of affluence in Aurora.

In 1874 Mr. Bergeson was married to Miss Mary Stephenson, a native of Illinois, and they became parents of a son and a daughter: Elmer, who is a real estate dealer and auctioneer of Aurora; and Amanda, the wife of Jesse Fowler, who is living on her father's farm. The wife and mother passed away in August, 1916, and on the 25th of December, 1918, Mr. Bergeson wedded Mary E. Lynch, the widow of J. B. Cunningham, who for many years was connected with official interests at the courthouse. She is a daughter of Thomas Lynch, who came to Hamilton county in 1882 and was the owner of a farm here.

Mr. Bergeson is a member of the Presbyterian church, while his wife has membership in the Catholic church. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons as a member of lodge and chapter and is also a member of the Knights of Pythias. Politically he is a republican and during the past four years has served as county assessor, making a creditable record in the office. He has purchased a beautiful home at No. 1113 Eleventh street and is the owner of four hundred and twenty-five acres of well improved land, which yields him a gratifying financial return. Twice he has returned on a visit to his native land, his first trip being made in 1878 and his second in 1912. On the first occasion he remained for six months and on the last trip was gone for seven months, during which time he visited many points of interest in Europe. He has never had occasion to regret the fact that his parents left Norway in his youthful days, for in this land he and his father both found the opportunities for success and in the improvement of the chances which came to them made steady progress. By reason of his prosperity he is now enabled to live retired and yet enjoys all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

MRS. AMILIA WERTH

For many years Mrs. Amilia Werth, widow of William Werth, has resided in Hamilton county. She was one of the early pioneers in this part of the country, having arrived here in 1872.

Mr. Werth was born in Germany May 24, 1844, and came to the United States in 1870, going direct to Henry county, Illinois. In 1872 he removed to Cass county, Nebraska, but in the latter part of the same year located in Hamilton county, taking a one hundred and sixty acre homestead on Lincoln creek. For about six weeks a wagon box formed the only shelter for him and his wife. Soon

a dugout was built on this land, consisting of one room with a straw roof and dirt floor. They had no furniture and a bed was made from old poles and brush. A table was made from an old elm tree, the remainder of the timber being used for fuel. Mr. Werth's land was broken with the aid of a horse team, five dollars having been the purchase price of one animal. Deer, antelopes and buffaloes were plentiful in the vicinity of the homestead and he was a participant in several thrilling buffalo hunts. There was one Indian camp in that community and Mr. Werth traded with them, ate several meals with them and found them quite civilized and friendly.

It was on the 15th of October, 1870, that Mrs. Werth became the wife of William Werth. His death occurred January 21, 1888, being the victim of a train accident at Hampton. He was a man of great energy and ambition and became widely known throughout the county. In that early day Lincoln was the nearest town to their homestead and Mr. Werth when hauling grain to that place would stop along the road and secure work in order to obtain enough money to buy feed for the horses. On the 13th of October, 1864, he had enlisted in the Union army from Springfield, Illinois, becoming a member of Company F, Ninth Regiment Cavalry and was in active service until mustered out at Montgomery, Alabama, October 31, 1865. Mr. Werth was one of the first county commissioners of Hamilton county and was the builder of the first bridge across Lincoln creek. Mr. Werth also had the distinction of having the first postoffice on Lincoln creek which was conducted in an old sod house. As a man of sterling character and great business ability, Mr. Werth endeared himself to a large number of friends throughout the community and his death caused a widespread feeling of bereavement where he had so long resided. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Werth; John, born in Cass county and who now resides in Hamilton county; Emma and Amilia, who died in infancy; Lizzie, who is now Mrs. Jacob Wall of Hamilton county; Ida, now Mrs. Henry Keith of Hamilton county; William, at home; Carl, whose death occurred in 1911; Augusta and Hannah, at home; and Henry, whose death occurred on the 12th of March, 1916.

Mrs. Werth is now in possession of a farm of three hundred and twenty acres of valuable land in Hamilton county, in section 26, Otis township. There were many hardships endured in the reconstruction period after the Civil war and also during the early pioneer days in Hamilton county, and Mrs. Werth remembers having paid as high as one dollar for a box of matches. But Mr. and Mrs. Werth allowed no obstacle to remain long in their path and she is now financially independent and one of the most prominent and highly respected women of the community.

R. O. GRIESS, M. D.

Well known among the younger members of the medical profession in Sutton is Dr. R. O. Griess who was born in that town January 15, 1892, a son of Peter and Sophia (Grosshans) Griess, further mention of whom is made in the sketch of Henry C. Griess to be found on another page of this work.

Dr. R. O. Griess is indebted to the schools of Sutton for his early education.

having graduated from the high school there in 1913. He then entered a preparatory school at Lincoln, remaining for two years and then deciding upon the medical profession as his life work, entered the State Medical College at Omaha, receiving his M. D. degree on May 26, 1919. He then returned to his home in Sutton, bought out the practice of Dr. J. W. Thompson and has been practicing there ever since, building up an extensive and lucrative patronage. For eighteen months before his removal to Sutton for active practice Dr. Griess was an interne in the Methodist Episcopal hospital at Omaha, Nebraska.

On the 8th of March, 1920, Dr. Griess was united in marriage to Miss Marian Purdy, a native of Clarks, Nebraska, and a daughter of Clark Purdy, an old settler of that vicinity.

The religious faith of Dr. Griess is that of the German Reformed church and he is fraternally connected with Phi Chi, a college organization. In the line of his profession he is a member of the American Medical Association and is fast becoming recognized by leading members of his profession in the county as a most promising young physician and surgeon.

C. E. GOSSARD

C. E. Gossard, who was for many years prominent in the agricultural circles of Hamilton county, is now living retired in Trumbull, enjoying the fruits of a life spent in diligence and industry.

A native of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, C. E. Gossard was born there on the 30th of September, 1854, a son of David and Mary (Elliott) Gossard, the former born on the Mason and Dixon line between Maryland and Pennsylvania and the latter a native of Pennsylvania. The father engaged in farming throughout his life and was a well known man in the vicinity in which he made his home.

C. E. Gossard received his education in the common schools of Pennsylvania. He lived with an uncle from the age of nine to nineteen years and then returned to his father's home where he resided for one year. He learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed for three years and then in 1876 went to Illinois, where he obtained work on farms at the wages of twenty dollars per month. The first years of his residence in Illinois were spent in Canton and he then removed to Bushnell, where he remained for some time. He rented one hundred and sixty acres of fine farm land and there engaged in general farming until 1887, when he decided to come west. He landed in Hamilton county in that year and purchased two hundred acres of land, well improved for that time, having a frame house and barn. Mr. Gossard immediately set out an orchard and some shade trees but the orchard mostly dried out during the droughts of 1893 and 1894. In 1890 and 1891 in order to obtain fuel Mr. Gossard had to burn some of his corn which he had to replace at a cost of fifty-two cents per pushel. He sold his hogs during that period for two dollars and sixty cents per hundred. Mr. Gossard has been extremely successful in all of his farming ventures and is now in possession of two hundred and eighty acres of fine farm land. In 1908 he retired from farm life and removed to Hastings, where he remained for two years, then returned to

the farm until 1915, when he moved to Trumbull. There he is now residing in a fine home which he purchased, a highly respected and successful citizen.

On the 3d of March, 1881, occurred the marriage of Mr. Gossard and Miss Minnie Hageman, a native of Illinois and a daughter of William Hageman, who made his home in Illinois until his death at the age of eighty-seven years. To them four children have been born: Ernest, who is engaged in farming in Clay county; Creigh, a farmer of Hamilton county; David W., who is Washington state manager for the White River Lumber Company; and Floyd C., who is a well known restaurant man of Everson, Washington. David W. received his training for service in the World war at Camp Lewis, Washington, and won the commission of second lieutenant. Floyd also trained at Camp Lewis and had reached New York on his way to France when he was disabled and received an honorable discharge.

In politics Mr. Gossard has never taken a prominent part, although he has taken an active part in civic affairs. He is an independent voter but favors the principles of the republican party. Fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has passed through all the chairs in each lodge. He has served as school director of district number seventy-five in Hamilton county and has been chairman of the town board of Trumbull. The religious faith of the family is that of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Gossard serves that organization as librarian. Mr. Gossard is widely recognized as a highly principled man and has won the confidence of all with whom he has come into contact. Trumbull is fortunate in having C. E. Gossard for a citizen.

GEORGE MARVEL

The goodly heritage of pioneer proclivities found constructive value and application in the earlier period of the Nebraska career of George Marvel, a venerable and honored citizen of Hamilton county, for he has been a resident of this commonwealth for more than forty years and has contributed his quota to civic and industrial development and progress. He was born on a farm near Waynesville, DeWitt county, Illinois, in the year 1841—a date which shows that his parents had a measure of pioneer distinction in that state. He is a son of Prittman and Rebecca (Barr) Marvel, the former born in South Carolina and the latter in Indiana, both families having been established in the United States for many generations. The father became a successful farmer and dealer in live stock in Illinois, but both he and his wife passed the closing years of their lives in Indiana.

The common schools of his native state afforded to George Marvel his early education and in his youth he also gained definite fellowship with practical industrial and business affairs. In view of conditions obtaining in Illinois at the present time it is interesting to record that as a boy Mr. Marvel there pursued his studies in a primitive log schoolhouse, equipped with slab seats and other rude accessories. He was twenty years of age when he subordinated all personal interests and ambitions to respond to the call of patriotism when the Civil war broke out. In 1862 he enlisted as a member of Company B, Second Illinois Cavalry and with this gallant command he continued in service until the expiration of his term in 1864, when he

re-enlisted, with the result that he continued in the ranks of the Union army until the close of the war, he having been at San Antonio, Texas, at the time of receiving his honorable discharge in the summer of 1865. He served with his original company during his entire military career and took part in numerous battles and many minor engagements. It may be specially noted that he participated in the battles of Shiloh and Corinth and that he lived up to the full tension of the great conflict through which the integrity of the nation was preserved. During two years of his service he was with raiding parties. In later years he has vitalized his interest in his old comrades by his active affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic.

After the close of the war Mr. Marvel returned to Illinois and engaged in farm enterprise in his native county, where he became the owner of a farm of one hundred and forty acres. For a time thereafter he was associated in the operation of a sawmill at Waynesville, that state, where also he was identified with the general merchandise business. In 1880 he came to Dawson county, Nebraska, where he was engaged in farming until 1883, when he came to Hamilton county and in company with his brother-in-law, T. D. Houchin, prosecuted farm operations on land which is the site of the present village of Phillips. In his home his wife provided board for the men who were engaged in surveying the line of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad through this county. The family dwelling was a small frame house and in this county Mr. Marvel continued his progressive activities as an agriculturist and stock grower until 1899, since which year he has lived virtually retired in the village of Phillips.

On the 9th of April, 1864, while he was home on a furlough, in DeWitt county, Illinois, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Marvel to Miss Louisa Houchin, and to this union were born the following children: Rebecca E., died young; Carrie B., likewise is deceased; the third and fourth children died in infancy; Mary Jane is the wife of Monroe Travis, of Aurora, Hamilton county; Hattie C. is the wife of Frederick Nielson, of Fairbury, Jefferson county; and William is a successful carpenter and builder at Phillips, Hamilton county.

Mr. Marvel has been unflagging in his allegiance to the democratic party and while he has never been ambitious for official preferment he served for a time as deputy sheriff of his native county, in Illinois. He and his wife have been for many years earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

GEORGE L. LEVEE

George L. Levee, who resides on section 6, Deepwell township, Hamilton county, claims the old Empire state as the place of his nativity, but in his youth was not denied a goodly measure of pioneer experience in the west. He was born in Madison county, New York, on the 2d of June, 1839, and there was reared to the age of fifteen years, his educational advantages having been those of the common schools of the locality and period. As a lad of five years, in 1844 he accompanied his parents on their removal to Iowa. The journey was made with team and wagon and the parents became pioneer settlers in the Hawkeye state, where the father developed a farm and where he passed the remainder of his



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE L. LEVEE

life, as did also his wife. In the schools of Iowa George L. Levee continued his studies when opportunity offered, and there also he learned the trade of blacksmith, under the effective direction of his father, who was a skilled workman. When the dark cloud of Civil war cast its pall over the national horizon, George L. Levee was one of the gallant young men of Iowa who tendered aid in defense of the Union. He enlisted in Company G, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, and with this command proceeded to the front. He did a large amount of scouting service, took part in many skirmishes and other minor engagements, and was with his regiment in the army commanded by General Sherman, his service having continued until the close of the war and he having attained to the rank of orderly sergeant. He made a record of faithful and valiant service and one of his prized treasures is the old sword which he carried during his military career. His continued interest in his old comrades is signalized by his affiliation with the Grand Island post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

After the war Mr. Levee returned to Iowa, and there continued to be associated with his father in conducting a blacksmith shop at West Point until the spring of 1873, when he fortified himself for his experience as a pioneer in Nebraska. With team and wagon he drove through from Iowa to Hamilton county, accompanied by his wife and their one child and the supplies which he took with him included a stove and two cows. Upon his arrival in Hamilton county, just after the historic Easter blizzard that had held this section of the state snowbound for three or more days, Mr. Levee entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, in Deepwell township. On his land he erected a frame shanty, and this primitive dwelling long since gave place to a better habitation, while the building improvements upon the farm at the present day are of modern order and aid in marking the property as one of the model farms of the county. An orchard and a goodly number of native trees were planted by Mr. Levee in the early years and they add to the attractions of his farm. He and his wife endured their full share of the trials and vicissitudes of the pioneer period and he recalls that he was able to supply the family larder by his skill as a marksman, with deer, antelopes and other wild game which were much in evidence in the earlier period of his residence in Hamilton county, where he has remained continuously on his original homestead.

Mr. Levee gave his zealous co-operation in the furtherances of measures and enterprises projected for the general good of the community and has ben essentially one of the builders of Hamilton county along both civic and industrial lines. He was one of the organizers of the school district of his community and gave effective service as a school director. Soon after coming to the county he established a blacksmith shop on his farm, and there was much demand for his skilled service at his trade. In this connection it is interesting to record that in this shop he invented and perfected a grasshopper breaking plow and for a number of years manufactured a large number of these plows annually, their efficiency causing a ready demand for his products.

In Iowa was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Levee to Miss Emily V. Woodman, and the supreme loss and bereavement in his life came when his devoted wife was summoned to eternal rest on the 16th of April, 1920. She was a true pioneer woman of gracious personality and her memory is revered in the

community that represented her home for nearly half a century. Of the four children, the first, George P., died at the age of ten years; Vermont remains with his father on the old homestead and has the active management of the farm; Mary is the wife of L. H. Schultz, of Hamilton county; and Abbie is the wife of Abraham Ummel, likewise a resident of this county. The political allegiance of Mr. Levee is given to the republican party and he has been affiliated with the Masonic fraternity since the year 1866.

JUDGE J. H. SMITH

Judge J. H. Smith was one who wrote his name high on the keystone of the legal arch of Nebraska. He was widely known as an eminent jurist, serving as judge of the sixth judicial district and for many years he was active and prominent in the practice of law. His birth occurred in Peoria, Illinois, March 2, 1854, and his life record covered the intervening years to January, 1913. His parents were Thomas and Parmelia (Hill) Smith, the former a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, who devoted his life to mechanical pursuits. The grandfather in the paternal line was Samuel Smith, an artisan and man of large stature. The maternal grandfather was Thomas Hill who always followed the occupation of farming. It was in the year 1855 that Thomas and Parmelia (Hill) Smith removed from their home in Pennsylvania to Arlington, Illinois, and later became residents of Princeton, that state, where they were living at the time the father enlisted for service in the Civil war, joining Company A, of the Sixty-ninth Illinois Infantry. In 1868 he removed with his family to Osceola, Iowa, where Jerome H. Smith worked at the trade of carpenter for five years. He had pursued his early education in the schools of Illinois and following the removal of the family to Iowa he devoted his leisure hours, while following his trade, to the study of law. Later he entered the office of Chaney & Temple and on the 2d of June, 1875, was admitted to the bar. Immediately thereafter he entered upon the practice of his profession in Osceola, where he continued until March, 1879, and then removed to Aurora. In this city he began practice alone and later entered into partnership with E. J. Haines and Phillip Likes. For years he remained an active and prominent member of the Aurora bar, proving his ability by the careful analysis of his cases and the clearness with which he presented his cause before the court. In 1906 he removed to Lincoln and was attorney for the Royal Highlanders until his death.

It was in Osceola, Iowa, in 1878, that Judge Smith was united in marriage to Miss Roseltha F. Likes, a daughter of Phillip and Harriett (Agar) Likes, who went to Iowa in pioneer times, the father practicing in Osceola for a number of years and afterward removing to Aurora, where he continued in the active work of the profession until his death. He became one of the leading attorneys and pioneer settlers of Hamilton county and was prominent and successful not only in law practice, but in other business enterprises of a financial nature. To Judge and Mrs. Smith there were born six children, five of whom are living: Herbert H., who is a prominent orchestral leader of Lincoln, Nebraska; H. Leslie, an attorney of Scotts Bluff, Nebraska; Roscoe L., a practicing physician of Lincoln, who has been extremely successful in his chosen profession; Fred F., who died from influenza in

1918, at which time he had engaged in merchandising until a short time before his death; Jerome H., engaged in the real estate business at Scotts Bluff, Nebraska; and Phillip T., who is a veterinarian, residing at Scotts Bluff.

In his political views Judge Smith was a republican, but the only offices he ever held were in the strict path of his profession. He served for a number of years as prosecuting attorney at Osceola and through appointment of Governor Thayer took his place upon the bench of the sixth judicial district, serving until 1892. His decisions were strictly fair and impartial, being based upon comprehensive knowledge of the law with ability to apply accurately its principles. Personal opinion and prejudice never entered as a disturbing force into his decisions and his record was one which reflected credit and honor upon the judicial history of the state. He at one time served as a member of the city council and his entire career was characterized by the utmost devotion to the public welfare. While residing in Aurora Judge Smith owned a fine home and also several valuable Hamilton county farms. He was a man of great energy, never stopping short of the accomplishment of his objective, and his judicial cast of mind enabled him readily to recognize each side of a question and to determine concerning the relative values thereof. All who knew him speak of him in terms of the highest regard.

JAMES E. HOWARD

James E. Howard, sheriff of Hamilton county, was born in DeWitt county, Illinois, April 2, 1869, and is a representative of one of the old pioneer families of that state. His grandfather, Joseph Howard, a native of Kentucky, removed to DeWitt county during the period of its early settlement and development and there devoted his life to farming and was also a preacher of the Methodist church. His son, Francis M. Howard, was born in Illinois and continued his residence there until 1889 when he came to Nebraska and made investment in two hundred and eighty acres of well improved land in Hamilton county. His attention was then given to the further cultivation of his farm until 1905 when he removed to Aurora where his remaining days were spent in the enjoyment of well earned rest. He married Sarah Trowbridge, also a native of Illinois and a daughter of Jacob Trowbridge who established his home in Illinois when the work of settlement and development there seemed scarcely begun. Both Mr. and Mrs. Francis M. Howard were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, guiding their lives according to its teachings for many years and later they joined the Congregational church. In his political views Mr. Howard was a stalwart democrat and served as state senator from Hamilton and Clay counties. While in the general assembly he gave careful consideration to all the vital questions and problems that came up for settlement and left the impress of his individuality upon the legislation of that period. He passed away in 1906 and his wife passed away in 1871. They were the parents of three children: William, a farmer of Missouri; Lee, a brick mason living in Waterloo, Iowa; and James E. After losing his first wife Mr. Howard married again and there were five children of the second union: Robert, of Kansas City; Wade, who is engaged in the hardware business in Aurora; Frank, who is

postmaster at Ravenna, Nebraska; Lawrence, a traveling salesman residing in Oklahoma City; and Edith, the wife of Al Cessna, a mail carrier of Aurora.

James E. Howard, spending his youthful days upon the home farm in Illinois, pursued his education in the public schools there supplemented by a term's study in Aurora in 1890 following the removal of the family to Nebraska the previous year. After putting aside his textbooks he devoted his attention to the occupation to which he had been reared and continued to engage in farming until 1916 when he was elected sheriff of Hamilton county, taking up the duties of the office on the 1st of January, 1917. At the close of his two years' term he was reelected, so that he is the incumbent in this position. He has ever discharged his duties fearlessly and faithfully and has made a most capable record, as evidenced by the fact of his reelection.

On the 15th of November, 1893, Mr. Howard was married to Miss Edith Zuck who was born in Illinois, a daughter of Eugene H. Zuck who came to Hamilton county in 1876 and was here the owner of farm land. Mr. and Mrs. Howard have become parents of four children, of whom three are living: Elva, who is employed by Governor McKelvey; Frances, the wife of Percy Yost, a traveling salesman; Ross, who died at the age of nineteen years; and Eugene, who is in school. The parents are members of the Congregational church and in social circles occupy an enviable place, having many friends in Aurora and throughout the county. Mr. Howard has always given his political allegiance to the democratic party and is one of its recognized leaders in this section of the state. Since called to office he has rented his farm on which previous to assuming public duties he made his home, having one hundred and twenty acres of well improved land on which he engaged extensively in stock raising, handling a large amount of registered stock. He now leases his land that he may devote his entire time to the duties of the office and is making a most creditable record as a county official.

JAMES J. SMITH

A prominent citizen of Giltner, Hamilton county, is James J. Smith who has been living there since his retirement from active farm life about 1904. He was born in eastern Canada, November 30, 1847, a son of James and Margaret (Rickaby) Smith, both natives of Ireland. The father was a shoemaker by trade and also did some farming in his native country before coming to America. For some time they resided in Canada, then removed to New York and subsequently came to Nebraska, settling in Cheyenne county where both James and Margaret Smith passed away.

James J. Smith received his education in the Canada schools, having to walk six miles each day to the schoolhouse. After putting his textbooks aside he worked on his father's farm and later in a brickyard in Canada but in the early '60s came to the United States, settling in New York state. There he purchased one hundred acres of wooded land which he cleared and on which he erected a log house. He was married in that state in 1869 and in 1873 came west to Nebraska, making the trip by train as far as Harvard, this state. He secured a homestead of eighty acres

in township 9, range 81, and thereon erected a frame and sod house and suitable outbuildings. He bought a team and broke his own land, which he immediately set about to cultivate but suffered the total destruction of his crops at two different times, when the grasshopper storm hit the country. During the Easter blizzard they were snowed in for several days and his fuel supply was willows cut from the banks of the Platte river and cornstalks. Later buying a yoke of cattle Mr. Smith hauled his grain to Hastings, where he found a ready market. From time to time he added to his original tract and at one time had two hundred acres of fine improved land. He still owns one hundred and twenty acres, upon which he has planted trees and which he has otherwise improved. He planted a fine orchard, but this was killed by hail. General farming took up his time until about 1904, when he decided to retire from active farm life with the result that he removed to Giltner, where he is now residing.

In 1869 Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Maria Barlow, a native of New York state and to them ten children were born: James S., a mechanic of Chappell; Delbert, residing in Louisville, Nebraska; Jessie, the wife of J. M. Miller, a prominent farmer of Hamilton county; R. J., living on the old home farm; S. R., residing in Colorado; O. L., a farmer residing in Hamilton county; H. B. of Hampton, Nebraska; William, deceased; George; and Mary, now deceased, who was the wife of George Fry.

Mr. Smith follows an independent course in politics and he is a member of the Baptist church. Mrs. Smith is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Smith is indeed well known throughout Hamilton county as a man whose integrity of character and industrious life have gained for him the consideration and respect of all his acquaintances and associates.

MARCUS H. SMITH

As a young man Mr. Smith gained much experience in connection with pioneer farm industry in Hamilton county, Nebraska, and here he now has secure prestige as one of the progressive exponents of the agricultural and live stock enterprise in Union township, his land being located in section 34. He was born in Orleans county, New York, in the year 1853, a son of Francis and Jemima (Wiles) Smith, both natives of England. Francis Smith became a farmer in the old Empire state and later followed the same vocation near Galesburg, Illinois, where he remained until 1880, when he came with his family to Hamilton county, Nebraska, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land. Here he reclaimed and developed a productive farm and was one of the honored patriarchs of this county at the time of his death, when ninety-one years of age, his wife having passed away at the age of seventy-six years.

Marcus H. Smith gained his youthful education in the public schools of Illinois and his entire active career has been marked by close association with the basic industries of agriculture and stock raising, in connection with which he has won substantial prosperity within the period of his residence in Nebraska,

having been a young man when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Hamilton county, this state.

On the 1st of February, 1888, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Smith to Miss Clara Patterson, who was born near Galesburg, Illinois, and whose father, William S. Patterson, is accorded a memorial tribute elsewhere in this work. Mr. Smith is an independent in politics and his wife is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Harvard. They have no children.

THOMAS A. SIEFKEN

Thomas A. Siefken, who has been prominent in the agricultural business and political circles of Clay county for many years and who is now in charge of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Harvard, was born in Lee county, Illinois, April 12, 1873, a son of Hero S. and Jane (Sutton) Siefken, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Ohio. Both parents came to Illinois at an early date and were there married. They made their home in Illinois until 1879 when they came west to Nebraska and settled in Clay county, where the father purchased land from the Union Pacific Railroad. Being a man of grim determination and courage he allowed no obstacle, however great, to remain long in his path and he met all the hardships of those early pioneer days with no thought except to succeed. He applied himself with great diligence to the cultivation of his land with the result that he soon became recognized throughout the county as a prominent and progressive farmer. He had one of the first frame houses in the county, hauled the lumber from Harvard and completed the erection of his dwelling in February, 1879. He still owns his homestead and has two hundred and forty acres of fine land. Mrs. Siefken passed away in July, 1909, on the homestead. To them six children were born: Mrs. Mary McCoy of Arapahoe, who is residing on a farm; Hannah, who is the wife of James Robertshaw, a farmer near Hastings; Frank E., who is engaged in farming in Clay county; Thomas A., whose name initiates this review; Oliver A., who is farming near Imperial; and Charles, who died in 1906. When age conferred upon Mr. Siefken the right of franchise, he became a stanch supporter of the republican party, later transferred his allegiance to the populist party and now is inclined toward the democratic party, although he follows, generally, an independent course, voting for the man he thinks best fitted for the office. His religious faith is that of the Christian church, of which he is a consistent member. Upon the outbreak of the Civil war, Hero S. Siefken joined Company G, Tenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served for four years. He was wounded while in action and was confined to the hospital for six months. He participated in many of the important battles of that conflict and was with Sherman on his march to the sea. Mr Siefken has held many township offices and was county supervisor for a number of years. He is well known throughout the community as a representative citizen and is now residing with our subject, Thomas A.

Thomas A. Siefken received his education in the common schools of Clay county and later entered the Fremont Normal School. He then taught school



THOMAS A. SIEFKEN

for one year, subsequently entering a business college in Grand Island. After completing his business course he accepted a position in a wholesale house in Hastings, where he remained for six years and then entered a harness store in the same town and was there employed for the same number of years. Upon the death of his eldest brother, who had been taking care of the homestead, the father of Mr. Siefken prevailed upon him to take charge and for five years he was occupied in that connection. He was then appointed to the office of deputy county clerk in 1912, and after serving three years in that capacity engaged with a Mr. Ripateauen in the mercantile business at Clay Center. In 1915 he became manager of the Farmers' Elevator here, having sold out his interest in the store, but after one year resigned when he was elected clerk of the district court by a very large majority. He held that office for a period of two years, then resigned, returned to Harvard and has since been in charge of the elevator there.

In 1898 Mr. Siefken was united in marriage to Miss Effie Lineaweaver, a native of Burlington, Iowa, and a daughter of Henry Lineaweaver. Her father was born in Pennsylvania, and went to Iowa in the early '70s, where he spent the remainder of his life. To Mr. and Mrs. Siefken three children have been born: Ruth, who is attending the State University at Lincoln; Mildred, who is in the grade schools; and Robert, three years of age.

Although Mr. Siefken follows an independent course in politics, he is inclined toward the democratic party. Fraternally he is well known as an Ancient Free and Accepted Mason, a member of the commandery and shrine and he is likewise identified with the Odd Fellows and the Royal Highlanders. The religious faith of the family is that of the Federated church. Although Mr. Siefken devotes the greater portion of his time to his interests at the elevator, he is also active in agricultural circles and is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of fine farm land near Burlington, Colorado. He is one of the self-made men of Harvard, for starting out in life with practically nothing he has achieved a substantial success and his reputation as an honorable business man and representative citizen has spread throughout the county.

FRANK E. EDGERTON

Frank E. Edgerton, who since 1915 has engaged in the practice of law in Aurora, is found as a most worthy and capable follower of that profession to which life and liberty must look for protection. He has done much to uphold the legal status of the community for it is ever his aim to insure justice. While a native of Iowa, Mr. Edgerton is descended from one of the oldest and best known families of New England. The ancestral line can be traced back to Richard Edgerton who came from England about 1665 and was associated with twenty-nine other men in founding the town of Norwich, Connecticut. A grandson of Richard Edgerton married a daughter of William Bradford, the second governor of the Plymouth colony. Two of the great-great-grandfathers of Frank E. Edgerton in the paternal line served as soldiers of the Revolutionary war. His grandfather, James M. Edgerton, who was born in the state of New York, went to Iowa in 1871 and there devoted

his attention to farming. He had been among the early gold seekers of California in 1849 and had accumulated a considerable fortune. He met all of the hardships of a trip across the plains in the early days but took back with him to New York six thousand dollars as the result of his labors in the mines of the Pacific coast. He then resumed farming in the Empire state where he also conducted a lime kiln for a number of years. Eventually, however, he determined to establish his home in Iowa but had been a resident of that state for only two years when in 1873 he passed away. His son, LeRoy A. Edgerton, was likewise born in the Empire state and at Baldwinsville, New York, wedded Mary E. Luke, also a native of that state and a daughter of John W. Luke who spent his entire life in New York. In the year 1871 Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy A. Edgerton became residents of Iowa and he made investment in land in Harrison county, after which he carried on farming to the time of his death. He was born in 1848 and departed this life in 1904, while his wife who was also born in 1848, survived him for a number of years, being called to her final rest in 1917. In his political views he was a republican and he held membership with the Woodmen of the World. To Mr. and Mrs. Edgerton were born three children: Ralph, who is residing at Missouri Valley, Iowa, where he is engaged in the auto tire and repair business; Frank E.; and Claude W., who is the chief plant pathologist in the Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge.

Frank E. Edgerton was born at Woodbine, Iowa, September 29, 1875. In the pursuit of his education he attended the Woodbine Normal School of Woodbine, Iowa, and afterward entered the University of Nebraska, from which he was graduated in 1900. He taught school for a number of years in early manhood and afterward engaged in the newspaper business. In 1907 he went to Washington, D. C., as private secretary to Senator Norris Brown and while thus engaged completed a law course in the George Washington University at Washington, D. C., winning his diploma and degree in 1910. In 1911 he was appointed assistant attorney general of Nebraska at Lincoln and remained in that office for four years, after which he engaged in the private practice of his profession in the capital city for a year. In 1915 he came to Aurora where he has since remained, practicing as a member of the firm of Hainer, Craft & Edgerton. In 1918 he was elected county attorney of Hamilton county and has made a creditable record in office, just as he has in the conduct of his private practice.

On the 2d of April, 1902, Mr. Edgerton was married to Miss Mary Coe, who was born in Woodbine, Iowa, and was a schoolmate of her husband in their childhood days. She is a daughter of Josiah Coe, a native of Ohio, who removed to Iowa prior to the building of the railroads through that state. He devoted his attention to farming and banking and became an active factor in the development and improvement of the section of the state in which he lived. To Mr. and Mrs. Edgerton were born three children: Harold Eugene, who is a senior in the high school at Aurora; Mary Ellen, also a high school pupil; and Margaret Coe, who is likewise pursuing her studies in the Aurora public schools. Both Mr. and Mrs. Edgerton are members of the Christian church and he is a Scottish Rite Mason and member of the Mystic Shrine. While in Lincoln he served as senior warden in the Masonic lodge. His political endorsement has always been given to the republican party, for he is a firm believer in its principles as factors in good government. He stands for all those interests and activities which are elements in public progress

and civic development and as a member of the bar has made a most creditable record, holding to the highest ethical standards of the profession and at the same time displaying marked ability in handling the litigated interests entrusted to his care.

M. F. STANLEY

For a quarter of a century M. F. Stanley has been a member of the bar at Aurora and the zeal with which he has ever devoted his energies to his profession, the careful regard evinced for the interests of his clients and an assiduous and unrelaxing attention to all the details of his cases have brought him a large business and made him very successful in its conduct. Mr. Stanley was born in Richmond, Virginia, his birth having occurred in that historic and beautiful old city on the 5th of December, 1862, his parents being Joseph and Margaret (Morrison) Stanley, the ancestral line of the father being traced back to Dublin, Ireland, while the mother's people came from Saxony, Germany. Mr. Stanley was born in Ohio and his wife was a native of Virginia, in which state their marriage was celebrated. They removed to Illinois about 1870 when M. F. Stanley was eight years of age and afterward took up their abode in Indiana, finally settling in Nebraska. His father served his country in the Mexican war under General Taylor, taking part in the battles of Matamoros and Monterey as well as a number of other engagements. To him and his wife were born four sons and a daughter, of whom three sons are living, namely: M. F., of this review; H. M., a general contractor living at Fullerton, Nebraska; and L. M., who resides near Oakland, California, where he is the owner of a fruit ranch.

M. F. Stanley pursued his education in the Fremont Normal College and in the Nebraska State Normal School of Peru and took up the profession of teaching which he followed in the schools of Hamilton county. He has resided within the borders of this county since 1885, or for a period of thirty-six years, and in 1889 he was elected county superintendent of schools, in which position he served for six years, making a most creditable record by his support of the highest educational standards and his ability to inspire teachers and pupils under him with much of his own zeal and interest in the work. Before entering upon the duties of the position he had taken up the study of law and in 1895 was admitted to the bar. The following year he began practice and throughout the intervening period has remained in Aurora. His practice is extensive and of an important character. At no time has his reading ever been confined to the limitations of the question at issue. It has gone beyond and compassed every contingency and provided not alone for the expected but for the unexpected, which happens in the courts quite as frequently as out of them.

In February, 1891, Mr. Stanley was married to Miss Ethzelda Rush, who was born in Iowa and came with her parents to Hamilton county in 1885, her father settling with the family upon a farm. She was educated in the high school of Aurora and in the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru and was a successful teacher prior to her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley have become parents of three children: Lamar, who was graduated from the high school and State University of Nebraska and United States Army Aviation School, balloon section;

Ethel, who is in school; and Marion E., who is a student in the Colorado College at Colorado Springs. Mrs. Stanley is a member of the United Brethren church. Mr. Stanley has membership with the Knights of Pythias and is a past chancellor commander. He is also identified with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His political support is given to the republican party but he was among those who were identified with the progressive party movement and was made a member of the state executive committee of that party. He supported Roosevelt in 1912 and was a warm admirer of the "best loved and most typically American citizen." Mr. Stanley has been called to official position, having served as county attorney of Hamilton county for seven years and was the only republican elected to the office for twenty-five years. In June, 1920, he was made receiver for the W. C. Wentz Company and is now trustee in bankruptcy. He gives his attention to the duties of this position and to his important law practice and is a member of the American Bar Association. He is recognized as a prominent and worthy follower of his calling—one who at all times maintains its highest ethical standards.

JOHN BERGMARK

Now holding status as one of the honored pioneers and venerable citizens of Hamilton county Mr. Bergmark is a man to whom is to be ascribed a goodly share of distinction in connection with the development and advancement of farm industry in this section of the state. He was born in Sweden in the year 1848, was there reared to manhood and received his early education in the common schools and he was a self-reliant and ambitious young man when he crossed the Atlantic in 1867 and established his home in the United States, where he felt assured of better opportunities for the winning of independence and stable prosperity through personal ability and effort. Soon after his arrival in America he made his way to the city of Chicago, where he found employment at his trade, that of blacksmith, in the service of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, with which he continued his connection in this capacity for a period of seventeen years. About two years after his arrival in this country his parents severed the ties that bound them to their native land and the father was a resident of Chicago at the time of his death, when sixty-three years of age. The mother later came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where she presided over the domestic affairs in the home of her sons and where she remained until her death, at the venerable age of eighty-two years.

It was in the year 1884 that John Bergmark and his wife established their home in Hamilton county, though prior to this both had visited the site of the new home, at the time when the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad was in process of construction through the county. Mr. Bergmark purchased one hundred and sixty acres of prairie land in what is now the progressive township of Phillips and he vigorously instituted the development of the land, on which not a furrow had been turned at the time when the property came into his possession. His capital was very limited at that time and in the purchase of his land he assumed a burden of indebtedness for nearly the entire amount. He and his brother, the latter coming to Nebraska about the same time, resided with their widowed mother, until

John Bergmark married and took possession of the substantial house which he erected on his land, which is now one of the well improved farm estates of the county and its general appearance bears testimony to the abundant prosperity that has rewarded his persistent and well ordered activities in past years. He has made each successive year count in worthy achievement, has done his part in the furtherance of the agricultural and live stock industry in this section of Nebraska, has been loyal to all civic duties and responsibilities and has so ordered his course as to merit and receive the unqualified esteem of those with whom he has come into contact in the varied relations of life. He remains on the old home farm, in the activities of which he still maintains lively interest, though his sons now relieve him of the active management that was his portion for many years. He and his wife had full fellowship with the hardships that marked the pioneer days and their appreciation of the state of their adoption has grown with the passing years, which have brought to them peace and prosperity and a well established position in their home community. Mr. Bergmark has had no desire for political preferment but is found stanchly aligned as a supporter of the cause of the republican party.

In the city of Chicago, in the year 1879, Mr. Bergmark was married to Miss Hattie Sophie Brand, who likewise was born and reared in Sweden and who became a resident of Chicago in 1871, her parents coming to this country about two years later and they were residents of Chicago at the time of their death. Mr. and Mrs. Bergmark became the parents of six children, all of whom are living except one: Mrs. Emma Anderson is the wife of one of the prosperous farmers of Hamilton county; Mrs. Tillie Scanman and her husband reside in the state of Washington; Charles died at the age of twenty-two years; Theodore is married and is engaged in independent farm enterprise in Hamilton county; Frank is connected with the work and management of the home farm in association with his brother Theodore; and Arthur, who was in the nation's military service in the World war, now resides at Ellensburg, Washington.

THOMAS JEFFERSON DUDGEON

Thomas Jefferson Dudgeon, who for a long period was actively and prominently identified with the farming interests of Clay county and became the owner of a valuable tract of three hundred and twenty acres, was born in Ohio, August 18, 1860, but was only four years of age when his parents removed to Iowa, settling in Wapello county, where he was reared to manhood and obtained a common school education. He early assisted in the work of the home farm and thus gained the valuable experience which proved of great worth to him when he began farming on his own account. In the fall of 1882 he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Leicester township, Clay county, Nebraska, where his house now stands, paying eight dollars per acre for the property. There were no improvements on the farm, but with characteristic energy he began its development and erected a small frame house and also a little granary. He likewise planted shade trees and fruit trees and carried on the work of further developing and improving the property until he had converted it into one of the fine and productive

farms of this section of the state. As his financial resources increased he also added to his holdings and became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres, which he held to the time of his death and which constituted a valuable legacy to leave to his family. While engaged in general farming he also raised Percheron horses starting this only two years before his death, and both branches of his business proved quite successful.

On the 11th of October, 1885, Mr. Dudgeon was married to Miss Ella Pine and to them have been born three children: Jennie, the wife of W. L. Hageman; and Orpha and Ray, both at home. The family circle was broken by the hand of death on the 26th of September, 1909, when Mr. Dudgeon passed away. His political support was given to the democratic party, but he never sought nor desired office, preferring at all times to concentrate his efforts and his energy upon his farming interests, which brought him to well merited and substantial success.

J. J. REFSHAUGE

J. J. Refshauge, an Aurora banker, recognized as a man of keen sagacity and sound judgment in business affairs, was born at Cedar Falls, Iowa, June 18, 1882, a son of Christian J. and Marie (Andresen) Refshauge. The father was born in the Danish province of Slesvig in 1840 and the mother was also a native of Denmark. For many years the father was a schoolmaster. He had almost completed a seminary education when the war of 1864 occurred and the province of Slesvig, through the fortunes of war, became a province of Germany. He was bitterly opposed to German control of his country and refused to teach the German language. Not wishing to live under German rule he removed into that section of the country which still belonged to Denmark and for eight or nine years engaged in teaching there. In the early '70s he came to the United States, settling near Cedar Falls, Iowa, and in that locality purchased land. He then concentrated his efforts and attention upon farming, which he followed throughout his remaining days. His financial resources were limited when he came to the United States, but in this country he prospered and won a place among the well-to-do men of his community. Both he and his wife were members of the Lutheran church and his political views were in accord with the teaching and principles of the republican party. To this worthy couple were born eleven children, ten of whom are living, but only two are residents of Hamilton county: J. J., of this review; and P. J., who is secretary and treasurer of the First Trust Company.

J. J. Refshauge, like the others of the family, was accorded excellent educational privileges, completing his studies in the State Teachers' College at Cedar Falls, Iowa. He started out on his business career in a humble capacity in connection with the Citizens' National Bank of Cedar Falls and there remained for about four years, working his way steadily upward to the position of assistant cashier. In 1905 he removed to Davey, Nebraska, where he became connected with the Farmers' State Bank, purchasing an interest in the business with which he was connected for a year and a half. While there he became acquainted with W. I. Farley, who persuaded him to come to Aurora. In 1907 he was made the vice

president and cashier of the First National Bank of Marquette and in 1919 entered the First National Bank of Aurora as cashier. He has since continued in this position and his personal popularity, his business ability and his enterprise are featuring largely in the growth and advancement of the business.

On the 15th of March, 1906, Mr. Refshauge was married to Miss Magdeline Ericksen, who was born in Iowa, her father having settled near Clinton, Iowa, in early life. Mr. and Mrs. Refshauge have three children: Lucile, a high school pupil; and Elmer and Bernard, also in school. The parents are members of the Lutheran church and they occupy an attractive social position. Mr. Refshauge is a Royal Arch Mason and also belongs to the Knights of Pythias, while his political support is given to the republican party. He served as a member of the town council and of the school board while living in Marquette and it was during his connection with the town board that all modern improvements were there installed. He is now acting as a member of the school board of Aurora and the cause of education has always found in him a stalwart champion. The greater part of his time and attention, however, are devoted to the bank in which he is serving as cashier, and to other banking interests in the county. His life has been actuated by a spirit of progress and difficulties in his path have ever seemed to serve as an impetus for renewed effort on his part. Steadily he has worked his way upward and his position in banking circles is a most creditable one.

GEORGE EVANS

George Evans is now living retired in Harvard but is still the owner of valuable property. For many years he was identified with the agricultural development of Clay county and in addition to his farm of one hundred and sixty acres is in possession of six lots in Harvard. He was born in Holmes county, Ohio, on the 24th of November, 1845, a son of Jeremiah and Ellen (Liggett) Evans, both natives of Pennsylvania. When young people they removed from their native state to Ohio, where they were married and later moved to Indiana and thence to Nebraska in 1881. The father was a progressive and successful farmer and followed that line of work until his death. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Evans, three of whom are living: George, the subject of this review; William, a farmer of Hayes county; and Thomas. Throughout their lives Mr. and Mrs. Evans were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he was a whig and later a stanch republican. The Evans family are of Scotch descent. The maternal grandfather of George Evans, Jeremiah Liggett, was a native of Pennsylvania but later removed to Ohio, where his demise occurred.

In the acquirement of an education George Evans attended the schools at Crown Point, Indiana, and after putting his textbooks aside engaged in farming. In 1876 he came to Clay county, where he bought a homestead right, improved the land and resided thereon until 1911. He lived in a sod house the first year and passed through all the hardships of those early days. In 1911 he rented his farm and moved into Harvard, where he is now living retired. He is a veteran of the Civil

war, having entered the service in 1863 as a member of the Twelfth Indiana Cavalry, with which he served for two years.

Mr. Evans was married in 1874 to Margaret Wesner, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of George and Mary (Sandall) Wesner, the former a native of France and the latter of Ohio. They removed to Indiana in 1856 and there died. Eleven children were born to them, Mrs. Evans being the eldest. Ten are living but Mrs. Evans is the only one residing in Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Wesner were members of the Lutheran church and for many years he was a democrat, later transferring his allegiance to the republican party. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Evans five children have been born: Elmer, Charles, Emma, Georgia, and Ralph. Elmer is living in Seward, where he is a well known electrician. He is married and has five children: Guy, Charles, Cecil, Pearl and Hazel; Charles left home twenty-six years ago and no word has ever been received from him; the third member of the family, Emma, is the wife of Andrew Megrue, a ranchman of Colorado and they are the parents of three children: Fay, Elba and Elwin; Georgia married Bert Osborn, a rancher of Ogallala; and Ralph is married to Miss Rosa Golding, lives on his father's farm and is the father of four children: George, Raymond, Evelyn, and Wayne.

Mr. Evans gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has membership in the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic. His wife is a consistent member of the Congregational church. As the result of laudable ambition and determined effort on his part Mr. Evans reached his present day success and those who know him, and he has a very wide acquaintance, speak of him in terms of the warmest regard.

CHARLES MIDEKE

The willingness to put forth his best efforts and the ability to direct those efforts effectively have been the positive forces in the winning of the substantial success that has come to Charles Mideke in his many years of practical experience as a representative of farm industry in Hamilton county, where he resides upon the old home farm which was raw prairie land at the time when he here established his home, as a pioneer of the year 1878. Mr. Mideke was born at Freeport, Illinois, on the 4th of June, 1852, and is a son of Frederick and Caroline Mideke, both natives of Germany. The father was born about the year 1848 and was a young man when he came to the United States. In Illinois he followed the carpenter's trade until his son, Charles, was about eighteen years of age and thereafter was there engaged in farming until his death at the age of sixty-four years, his wife having been thirty-six years of age at the time of her passing away. Public schools of Illinois gave to Charles Mideke his early educational advantages and there he continued his residence and his association with farm enterprise until 1878, when he came to Hamilton county, Nebraska. He first purchased eighty acres of railroad land, in section 31, South Platte township, and for this he paid at the rate of five dollars per acre, his financial resources at the time of his arrival in the county having been summed up in the amount of about six hundred dollars. On



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES MIDEKE

his land he erected a little frame house of one room and in the early days had no lack of obstacles and adversities to overcome, for his was the experience of the average pioneer of this section, but persistence and faith eventually triumphed and he is now the owner of an admirably improved and most productive landed estate of five hundred and twenty acres. Mr. Mideke has shown much discrimination and judgment in his various experiments and readjustments in connection with farm enterprise and he attributes much of his success to the fact that he has specialized in the raising of the cereal crops best adapted to the soil and climate. In the early days his finances were somewhat precarious and he has stated that six years passed before he was able to make the final payment for the construction of his first house. Now his status is that of a substantial citizen whose returns from his farm are certain and secure and no citizen is more loyal to Nebraska than this sterling and popular pioneer of Hamilton county.

Mr. Mideke has always been ready to give his influence and cooperation in the advancing of measures and enterprises projected for the general good of the community, is a democrat in basic politics, has served one term as a member of the school board of his district and is a member of the United Brethren church, as was also his wife, who died in 1919, at the age of sixty-three years, and who had shared with him in the trying experiences of the pioneer period, even as she lived to enjoy with him the eventual prosperity that came to them.

The year 1879 recorded the marriage of Mr. Mideke to Miss Emma Goethe, who was born and reared in Illinois and who was one of the revered pioneer women of Hamilton county at the time of her death. Of the children the eldest is G. W., who is a representative of successful farm enterprise in Hamilton county; Hattie and Arthur remain at the paternal home; Ida is the wife of Everett Winkler and they reside in the state of Colorado, as does also Clara, the next younger daughter; and Frank, Mabel and Lela are the younger members of the attractive home circle on the old homestead farm.

J. A. ISAMAN

J. A. Isaman is the senior partner of the firm of J. A. Isaman & Company, engaged in the real estate and abstract business, and is also connected with banking interests as the vice president of the Farmers' State Bank. In the real estate field he has negotiated many important property transfers and has won substantial success by the careful and able manner in which he has conducted his interests. A native of Iowa, his birth occurred in Van Buren county, July 4, 1869, his parents being B. F. and Mary A. (Newbold) Isaman, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania but were married in Iowa, to which state they removed in early life. The father was a son of Samuel G. Isaman, also a native of the Keystone state, who learned the shoemaker's trade and followed it for a time but afterward took up the occupation of farming. He removed from Pennsylvania to Iowa and gave his attention to agricultural pursuits there throughout his remaining days, reaching an advanced age. The maternal grandfather of J. A. Isaman was Joshua G. Newbold, who in many ways was prominently connected with the history of Iowa, serving

as a member of the state legislature, as governor of the commonwealth and in other important public connections whereby he did much to shape the policy and promote the progress of the state.

B. F. Isaman followed the occupation of farming as a life work but at the time of the Civil war put aside all business and personal considerations and joined Company F of the Fourteenth Iowa Infantry, with which he served for more than three years. Being captured he was incarcerated in Libby prison, in Andersonville prison and also at Macon, Georgia, and contracted a disease which ultimately terminated his life. It was in 1873 that he removed from Iowa to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he took up a homestead and first lived in the cellar of a house that he was building until the superstructure was completed. He had driven overland from Iowa and reached Hamilton county a few days before the big Easter storm. In his farming he was quite successful, carefully tilling the soil and gathering abundant harvests each year until he had acquired thereby a substantial competence. After living on the farm until 1896 he retired from active business and removed to Aurora, where his remaining days were spent, his death occurring in 1900, while his widow survived until 1914. In early life they were members of the Baptist church, later became identified with the Presbyterian church and still later returned to the Baptist church. Religious connections were with them a matter of Christianity rather than of denominationalism and they ever endeavored to follow closely the teachings of Him who came not to be ministered unto but to minister. They were the parents of four children: Kate, now the wife of J. H. White, a real estate dealer of Seattle, Washington; J. A., of this review; George E., who is engaged in the hardware business in Hastings, Nebraska; and Rachel, the wife of A. B. Cole, who is connected with the department of finance in the government office at Lincoln.

The first school which J. A. Isaman attended was taught by a woman in her own home, but afterward public schools were established and J. A. Isaman thus continued his education, while still later he attended school at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, also became a student in the Aurora high school and in York College of Nebraska. His youthful experiences were those of the farm bred boy and he early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He afterward went to North Platte, Nebraska, where he lived for two years, engaged in the abstract business. While there residing he was married in 1896 to Miss May E. Salisbury, a daughter of William N. Salisbury, and to them were born two children: Francis, at home; and Emma, the wife of Mac C. Brown, who is deputy county treasurer at Aurora.

Mr. Isaman is a stalwart republican in politics, thus following in the political footsteps of his father, who was a recognized leader in political circles in Hamilton county and who served at an early day as county commissioner and was again called to that office in later life. The same qualities of faithful citizenship and capability have been manifested by J. A. Isaman and in 1902 his fellow townsmen called him to the office of county clerk, which position he filled until 1904. He also served as city treasurer for seven years and made a most capable record in office. In 1896 he returned to Aurora and again resided on a farm, cultivating land belonging to his father for a number of years. In November, 1903, he took up his abode in the city and in December of the same year purchased the abstract and insurance busi-

ness from the firm of Hainer & Smith. He afterward extended the scope of his business to include real estate dealing. He has the only set of abstract books in the county and his accuracy in this connection is well known. In 1919 he admitted Irvin H. Otto to a partnership and they conduct a general real estate business, largely handling local property. Mr. Isaman has negotiated many important realty transfers and has been very successful as a real estate man. He is today the owner of valuable farm lands and city property, from which he derives a gratifying income and he is also well known as the vice president of the Farmers' State Bank but devotes the greater part of his attention to the real estate, abstract and insurance business, having today the largest fire insurance agency in the county.

Mr. Isaman became a charter member of the Rotary Club of Aurora and is well known in Masonic circles, belonging to the lodge, chapter, Scottish Rite bodies and the Mystic Shrine. He served as secretary for the Royal Arch Masons for a number of years and both he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star, in which he is a past patron and his wife a past matron. They are also members of the Congregational church and they occupy an enviable position in social circles where true worth and intelligence are accepted as the passports to good society.

SYLVESTER R. SIDDERS

An earnest and upright life, filled with worthy achievement, was that of the late Sylvester R. Sidders, and thus his memory is especially honored in Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he lived and labored to goodly ends and where he became the owner of a fine farm property, having maintained his residence in this county from 1884 until his death, which occurred on the 6th of November, 1913.

Mr. Sidders was born in the state of New Jersey, on the 6th of June, 1854, and was eight years of age at the time of the family removal to Ohio, where he was reared to manhood and received the advantages of the public schools. At the age of twenty-one years he came to Nebraska and for a time was associated with his brother-in-law in farming enterprise near Bennet, Lancaster county, where he farmed on shares. Thereafter he served one year as a guard at the state penitentiary and in 1884 came to Hamilton county, where he and his brother John, under partnership alliance, purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land. Mr. Sidders was a man of fine initiative and constructive energy and with the passing years developed one of the valuable farm properties of the county, his success and progressiveness having been attested by the excellent buildings and other improvements which he provided for his home farm. At the time of his death Mr. Sidders was the owner of a valuable farm property of three hundred and sixty acres in Scoville township, and this land is now in possession of his family. He was a vigorous exponent of agricultural and live stock industry, commanded the respect and goodwill of all who knew him, was influential in public affairs in his township and served several years as township assessor. He was affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and his religious faith was that of the Baptist church, of which his widow likewise is an earnest member.

Mr. Sidders was twice married, the first time in 1885 to Miss Jennie Case,

who is survived by one child, Laura, who is now the wife of William Race, their home being in the state of Colorado. On the 10th of March, 1895, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Sidders to Miss Lucy Gallentine, who was born in the state of Pennsylvania and who was two years old when her parents came to Nebraska and numbered themselves among the pioneer settlers of Clay county, where she was reared and educated. Mrs. Sidders' father, William Gallentine, was a homesteader of Clay county in 1874. Mr. and Mrs. Sidders became the parents of two sons and one daughter: William, Sylvester B., and Charity. The sons now have the active management of the old home farm and are numbered among the progressive farmers of the younger generation in their native county. Mrs. Sidders remained on the farm until 1916, when she removed to the village of Giltner, where she purchased an attractive residence property and where she and her daughter now maintain their home. Mrs. Sidders is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church in her home village and is a popular figure in connection with the representative social activities of the community.

CHARLES L. WHITNEY

Charles L. Whitney, who for more than a decade has engaged in the practice of law in Aurora, was born in Shelby county, Iowa, in April, 1884, a son of M. L. and Jennie (Weatherill) Whitney, both of whom are natives of New England. The paternal grandfather, D. R. Whitney, removed to Iowa in pioneer times and spent his remaining days in that state, becoming a well-to-do farmer there and ultimately retiring from active business. The maternal grandfather, Thomas Weatherill was a native of England and crossing the Atlantic took up his abode in Canada, while later he, too, established his home in Iowa, where he remained until called to his final rest. M. L. Whitney was quite young when the family home was established in Iowa and there he was reared to pioneer life. In 1886 he came to Nebraska and purchased land in Wayne county, becoming identified with the early development of this state. He afterward removed to Cedar county and was identified with farming interests in that locality. Year by year his cultivation of his farm constituted an asset in the progress and upbuilding of the section in which he lived. In 1911 he removed to Aurora and retired from active business, having won a comfortable competency through the years of his earnest and intelligently directed toil. He is now enjoying a well earned rest, his success supplying him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life. He is a member of the Christian church and his wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. For many years he has been a faithful follower of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In politics he has never maintained a partisan attitude but has always pursued an independent course in casting his ballot. To him and his wife were born five children, but only Charles L. is living.

It was in the country schools of Wayne county that Charles L. Whitney began his education, for he was but two years of age when brought by his parents from Iowa to this state. He continued his education in the high school at Hartington, Nebraska, and afterward pursued a teacher's course in the Fremont Normal College, graduating from the scientific course as a member of the class of 1906. He

later attended the State University and was graduated in June, 1910, upon the completion of a course in law. He was then admitted to the bar and started to practice his profession in Aurora in December, 1910. He has always practiced alone and his ability in the path of his profession is widely recognized. His legal learning, his analytical mind, the readiness with which he grasps the points in an argument all combine to make him one of the able lawyers of the district and his reputation has been won through earnest, honest labor, while his standing at the bar is a merited tribute to his ability.

On the 27th of December, 1916, Mr. Whitney was married to Miss Leona Entrekin, of Aurora, a daughter of A. L. Entrekin, a retired farmer of this city. They have one son, Charles L., born October 1, 1918. Mrs. Whitney is a member of the Bethany Baptist church and Mr. Whitney belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. He has been identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since the age of twenty-one years and has passed all of the chairs in the local lodge. He has also held all of the offices in the Knights of Pythias. In politics he is a democrat and for two terms filled the office of county attorney of Hamilton county but has never sought nor desired official preferment outside of the strict path of his profession. He has always devoted his entire time to law practice, has been admitted to all of the courts and as the years have passed has been accorded a liberal clientage of a distinctively representative character.

JOHN S. HALSTED

Among the prominent agriculturists of Clay county is John S. Halsted, who has been a resident in that county since March, 1880. Like many other prominent and successful men of Nebraska he is the state's son by adoption, his birth having occurred in Wabash county, Indiana, April 25, 1849.

John S. Halsted was seven years of age when his parents moved to Illinois, and he received his education in the country schools in the vicinity of his home. He there resided until on reaching man's estate he left the parental roof and set out for the west. He arrived in Clay county, Nebraska, in March of the year 1880 and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land, paying four hundred dollars for the improvements on this land, which consisted of a shanty, straw stable, and ninety acres of land already broken. Mr. Halsted is now in possession of two hundred and forty acres of fine land. He has set out many shade trees and has made his farm one of the attractive places of the county. He has always carried on general farming and stock raising, specializing in Hereford cattle and Poland China hogs. In addition to this land in Clay county Mr. Halsted is the owner of six hundred and forty acres in Lincoln county.

On the 1st of January, 1873, occurred the marriage of Mr. Halsted and Miss Mary L. Coleman and to them four children have been born: Lewis, who is on the farm in Lincoln county; Rawley H., who is engaged in farming near his father; Mary A., who is now the wife of John Livingston, a farmer of Adams county; and Cora B., who is residing at home.

Mr. Halsted has always taken an active part in civic affairs and his stanch

support may ever be counted upon in furthering a movement which he deems of necessity to the improvement and development of the community. For several years he was township clerk and has been a member of the school board for one year. Fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen and took a prominent part in the activities of that lodge in past years. His wife and daughter are consistent members of the Christian church and are prominent in the social and club circles of their community. Mr. Halsted has proved himself to be a farmer of great ability and progressiveness and there is no phase of modern scientific farming with which he is not familiar. He is indeed a representative citizen of Clay county and one of whom that county has a right to be proud.

SAMUEL M. KENSINGER

Prominent in the ranching circles of Hamilton county is Samuel M. Kensinger, a native of Bedford county, Pennsylvania, where he was born September 25, 1849, a son of Samuel and Nancy (McLean) Kensinger, also natives of that state. There the father engaged in farming and was a successful and highly respected citizen of the community in which he made his home.

Samuel M. Kensinger received his education in the country schools of his native state, the schools being made of plastered logs and fitted inside with home-made wooden benches. He began working on his father's farm at the age of nine years and then worked out on farms in the surrounding vicinity, being in one man's employ for a period of eight years. In 1866 he decided to engage in farming on his own account with the result that he located in Illinois and there rented land for two years. He then removed to Whiteside county and worked on a farm for two years. In 1870, in company with his brother, Daniel, Mr. Kensinger came west, driving through to Hamilton county in a covered wagon. They had but one team and four weeks were spent in making the journey. Arriving in Hamilton county Mr. Kensinger took a homestead of eighty acres on township 9, range 6, which land he still owns and operates. His first home on this land was a most primitive one being part dugout and logs. Later he built an addition of sod and a sod stable and subsequently erected a small frame house. His lumber he hauled from Harvard and his provisions from Lincoln and Grand Island. Mr. Kensinger walked to Grand Island one Fourth of July and played for a dance. Hunting was fine in the county at that time and he shot many buffalo and antelope and also caught many beaver on the Blue river during the winter months. In the grasshopper storm of 1874, Mr. Kensinger lost all of his crops with the exception of some barley and during the Easter blizzard of 1873 he was snowed in for three days. His brother Daniel had a yoke of oxen that drifted with the blizzard to Sutton, Nebraska. During the years of '93 and '94 Mr. Kensinger had about twenty milch cows on his place. Achieving a great amount of success in his ranching, he purchased an additional eighty acres and also bought two hundred acres in Union township.

On the 22nd of April, 1873, occurred the marriage of Mr. Kensinger and Miss Ella A. Franklin, a native of Pennsylvania, whose death occurred in 1886





MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL M. KENSINGER

at the age of thirty-six years. Her father, Lora A. Franklin, turned his log carpenter shop into a schoolhouse, made and supplied it with benches, and Mrs. Kensinger had the distinction of teaching the first school in their precinct in Hamilton county. She was the mother of six children, two of whom are now living: Burton E., who is farming with his father; and Anna, the wife of Oscar Van Deusen of Giltner, who is manager of the Farmers Union store of that place. The other children are as follows: Charles F., who died in 1874, and Carrie F., his twin, whose death occurred at the same time; Ida B., who passed away in 1876; and Lucinda M., whose death occurred in 1886.

Since age conferred on Mr. Kensinger the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party being a firm believer in the principles of that party as factors in good government. Any movement for the further development and improvement of the community is always assured his support. He is a firm believer in education and has served on the school board for many years. For over half a century, Mr. Kensinger has made his home in Hamilton county and during that time he has risen to a high place among the agriculturists of the county and state. He is justly entitled to the proud American title of self-made man for as a man of strong purpose he has carried to successful completion every undertaking.

WILLIAM S. PATTERSON

A man of broad vision, marked initiative and distinctive business acumen, the late William S. Patterson proved a potent force in the furtherance of farm industry and civic advancement in Hamilton county, Nebraska, and especially did he do much to further the advancing of live stock standards in this state. His character and his achievement were of positive order and for his sterling qualities and his worthy work in connection with the practical and productive affairs of life, he is remembered with unequivocal respect and honor in the county to whose progress he contributed much.

Mr. Patterson was born in Franklin county, Ohio, on the 21st of December, 1825, and he received his youthful education in the pioneer schools of the old Buckeye state. He was a lad of eleven years at the time of his mother's death and thereafter depended largely upon his own resources in making his way to the goal of independence and prosperity. He was seventeen years old when he accompanied his father to Knox county, Illinois, and became a skilled workman at the trade of barrel-maker. As a pioneer workman at his trade in Illinois he hauled his cooperage products overland a distance of fifty miles to Peoria, where he found a market for his barrels. Among his other early experiences in Illinois was that of driving flocks of turkeys overland a distance of one hundred and thirty-six miles to the market in Chicago and later he became extensively engaged in the buying and selling of live stock, besides becoming owner of a large landed estate in Illinois. In 1884 Mr. Patterson came with his family to Hamilton county, Nebraska, having here purchased, fully ten years previous, the present celebrated Patterson ranch of three hundred acres located in Union township, and having

instituted its improvement in connection with the raising of cattle. He made this ranch the stage and center of a peculiarly vigorous and progressive enterprise in the raising and shipping of live stock and the growing of the best type of blooded shorthorn cattle, in the exploiting of which he did much to raise the standards in Nebraska, as he brought full blooded sires from Kentucky and bred entirely from this source. He developed his ranch into one of the best properties of Hamilton county and continued his active supervision of the same until his death, November 7, 1902, aged seventy-six years, eleven months and sixteen days.

In Illinois the month of November, 1846, recorded the marriage of Mr. Patterson to Miss Matilda Miller, who was born at Monroe, Michigan, May 2, 1828, a representative of one of the most prominent and influential families of that section of the Wolverine state and in 1896 they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Mrs. Patterson preceded her husband to eternal rest, her death having occurred January 28, 1900, and her memory was revered by all who came within the compass of her gentle and kindly influence. Of the four surviving children the eldest is Edward, who is engaged in the real estate business in the city of Los Angeles, California; Clara is the wife of Marcus H. Smith, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work; Jennie is the wife of William A. Lee, a farmer near Galesburg, Illinois; and Frederick A. is manager and buyer for Patterson & Shannon in the live stock commission business in Sioux City, Iowa.

In politics, with well fortified opinions concerning matters of economic and governmental import, Mr. Patterson gave a fundamental support to the principles of the democratic party, but in local politics he was not constrained by partisan lines. He and his wife attended the Christian church.

FREDERICK WILLIAM SWANSON

For many years Frederick William Swanson was prominent in the agricultural circles of Clay county. He is now deceased, his death having occurred on the 6th of February, 1916.

Frederick W. Swanson was born in Sweden on the 10th of December, 1845, and in that country received his education. He learned the trade of shoemaker, being taught by his brother, and followed that trade for some time before coming to the United States. In 1869 he determined to come to this country and after landing here made his first home in Illinois. For some time he made shoes in Chicago and also followed that line of business in Grand Rapids and Muskegon, Michigan. In 1875, however, he came west and located in Clay county, Nebraska, where he purchased eighty acres of railroad land at six dollars per acre. He put up a frame house and barn on the place and immediately set about to cultivate it. He broke most of his land himself with the aid of a team of horses and also put out some shade trees and an orchard. His wife cooked in a hotel in Harvard and cooperated with her husband in every way. There were many Indians in the vicinity and one time Mrs. Swanson upon entering the kitchen found her freshly baked biscuits had been stolen by some Indian stragglers. For the most part, however, the Indians were friendly and harmless. Mr. and Mrs. Swanson suffered

all the hardships of those pioneer days, being snowed under for three days in the Easter blizzard of 1873 and later the grasshoppers completely destroyed their crops. All they managed to save during those grasshopper storms were some potatoes. The grasshoppers were so thick that they shaded the sun. Mr. Swanson was a man of great force and determination and each misfortune seemed only to spur him on to greater effort. At the time of his death he owned one-half section of fine land, on which stood two sets of improvements. He had been for many years a leader in the agricultural circles of the county and was readily conceded the proud American title of self-made man.

In 1875 in Clay county occurred the marriage of Mr. Swanson and Miss Louise Carlson, who came to that county in 1872 and homesteaded eighty acres. To them three children were born: Ellen Elizabeth, who is the wife of Otto Huffman, a farmer of Clay county; Joseph, whose death occurred in infancy; and J. W., who is farming the old place.

The political allegiance of Mr. Swanson was always given to the republican party and his religious faith was that of the Swedish Lutheran church. At an early day, before he helped organize the church at Saronville, the people in the vicinity of his home of that faith often held their meetings at the old homestead. Mr. Swanson was a supporter of every movement which he deemed of necessity to the improvement and development of the community and as a stanch advocate of education he was influential in organizing school district No. 69. Throughout the greater part of his life he followed farming and his demise left a void in the community which will be hard to fill.

HENRY GIMPEL

Henry Gimpel is now living retired in Aurora although for many years he was actively engaged in agricultural interests in this section of the state. He was born in Germany, January 20, 1857, and in early life learned the harness-makers' trade in his native country. In 1882 he bade adieu to his friends and to his native land and came to the new world, settling first in Hamilton county, Nebraska. Here he began earning his living by working out as a farm hand at nineteen and twenty dollars per month, being thus employed until 1886. During this period he saved a sufficient sum to enable him to buy a team of horses. He continued to work as a farm hand until 1886 and then began renting land, which he cultivated for four years. He afterward bought eighty acres, for which he paid twenty dollars per acre. There were no buildings on the place but the land had been plowed. He erected a frame dwelling and barn and devoted his attntion to the further care and cultivation of the place until 1898. He then removed to another eighty acre tract in the same section and now owns three hundred and twenty acres of land in Hamilton precinct and one hundred and sixty acres in Deepwell precinct. He has buildings on all three quarter sections and successfully carries on general farming, raising the various grains best adapted for the soil and climatic conditions. In 1919, however, he removed to Aurora and rented his farms to his sons, so that at the present time he is largely enjoying rest from further labor.

In 1890 Mr. Gimpel was married to Miss Augusta Lange and they have become parents of eight children: William H., Henry, George, Arthur F., Clara, Emily, and John and Annie, twins. Two of the sons, George and Henry, served with the American army in the World war. Henry went across the water and saw service in France. Mr. and Mrs. Gimpel are members of the United Brethren church and he has served as school director and as constable. He is interested in all matters which pertain to the welfare and progress of the community in which he has so long made his home and aids in many projects for the public good. Moreover, his life serves to indicate what can be accomplished through individual effort and industry, for he started out in the world empty-handed and has steadily advanced by reason of his perseverance and diligence, until he is today one of the substantial citizens of his adopted county.

JAMES BEAT, SR.

Not in vain were the labors and the trials of the pioneers of Nebraska, for all that they wrought and endured has found fruition in the prosperity of the present day. It is pleasing to pay tribute to such sturdy pioneer citizens as James Beat, whose varied experiences in the early days were similar to those of other settlers in Hamilton county, where he so ordered his course as to reap consistent returns from his labors as a farmer, with the result that he is fully justified in the semi-retirement that is now his in his attractive home at Stockham.

Mr. Beat was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, September 13, 1856, a date which indicates that his parents, John and Mary Ann (Edie) Beat, were numbered among the pioneers of the Badger state, both having been born and reared in Scotland, though their marriage occurred after their immigration to the United States. John Beat made the voyage on an old-time sailing vessel known as the "Adam Carr," and six weeks elapsed ere the boat arrived in port in New York city. He became a pioneer farmer in Wisconsin and in that state both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, secure in the high esteem of all who knew them and both earnest members of the Presbyterian church.

James Beat, Sr., was reared on the home farm and acquired his early education in the district schools of his native county, which he attended principally during the winter terms when his services were not needed in connection with the work of the farm. In addition to his farm experience he gained also a practical knowledge of carpenter work, and he continued his residence in Wisconsin until March, 1877, when he came to Hamilton county, Nebraska. He here found employment at farm work, but in the following year here obtained eighty acres of land, for which he paid four hundred dollars, this having been government land, as was also the timber claim of forty acres which he secured that same fall. He continued in the employ of others during the first eight years of his residence in the county and then established his home on his own land, in Farmers Valley precinct, his first house having been a frame building, twelve by eighteen feet and his first barn having been of the sod type. He planted many trees on his farm, including pine trees and also an orchard, but only a few of the orchard trees now

remain. His vigorous activities and good management brought him increasing prosperity with the advancing years and he is now the owner of a well improved and valuable farm of two hundred and eighty acres.

Mr. Beat has been liberal and progressive as a citizen and has aided in many important enterprises, including the organization of the Farmers Elevator Company at Stockham, of which he continued a director ten years. He was also one of the organizers and incorporators of the Stockham State Bank, in which he continues a substantial stockholder. He is a republican in politics, is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and both he and his wife are active members of the Presbyterian church at Stockham.

In Wisconsin, in 1884, Mr. Beat was married to Miss Sarah L. Housel, of whose family record adequate mention is made elsewhere in this work, in the personal sketch of her brother, P. C. Housel. Mr. and Mrs. Beat became parents of the following children: Jane is the wife of Roy Flickenger and they reside in the state of California; James, Jr., resides at Stockham, in his native county; Furman J. is a resident of South Dakota, as is also his sister Enos; Harvey lives at Stockham; Margaret is the wife of Martin Wellcock of this place; Sadie is the wife of Ray Gellatly, likewise of Stockham; and Ezra has the active management of his father's old home farm, the subject of this review having retired from the farm and established his residence at Stockham in the year 1910.

HENRY C. GRIESS

Henry C. Griess is prominent in banking circles of Sutton as vice president of the Sutton State Bank. A native of Nebraska, he was born in Clay county, January 19, 1875, a son of Peter H. and Sophia (Grosshans) Griess, both natives of Germany where they were married and resided until 1873. In that year they emigrated to America and settled in Sutton, Nebraska, where the father engaged in the grain and coal business. For a number of years he conducted this business successfully but in the panic of 1895 met with severe financial losses from which he never fully recovered. He was a liberal man and during the panic offered every aid to his many friends. His family was a large one and his sons speak of him as a comrade, for he was their constant companion in his later life. Eleven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Griess, nine of them boys, and all of the children are living but one daughter. They are: Theodore, a prominent banker and financier of Harvard; Henry C., whose name initiates this review; John G., in the bank at Sutton; William, who is engaged in the lumber and coal business in Sutton; Edward P., postmaster at Sutton, Nebraska; Ferdinand, prominent in the dental profession of Sutton; Gustave, who is engaged with his brother in the dental practice at Sutton; Edward P., who is now serving as postmaster of Sutton and of whom further mention is made on another page of this work; Albert, active in the lumber and coal business in Sutton; and Lydia, who is the wife of J. A. Dennis, a merchant of Eldorado. Throughout his life Mr. Griess was a stanch democrat and took an active part in all local campaigns and movements of that party.

Henry C. Griess received his education in the Sutton schools and at the age of seventeen years began working in a hardware store for twenty dollars per month. For fifteen years he clerked in that store and then decided to enter the hardware business on his own account. He was very successful in this venture and remained in that connection until 1912, when he entered the bank of Sutton as assistant cashier. His rise in the bank was rapid and soon he was made vice president of that organization, in which office he is now serving.

On the 23d of November, 1899, Mr. Griess was united in marriage to Miss Rosana Griess, a daughter of H. P. Griess, an old settler of York county. As a business man her father had achieved a substantial amount of success and in agricultural circles he had taken an influential and leading part. Four children have been born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Griess: Alfred H., who is attending the State University at Lincoln; Esther, a graduate of the Sutton high school with the class of 1921; Helen, in school; and Otto, who is but four and one-half years of age.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Griess the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party. The religious faith of the family is that of the Free Reformed church, in the activities of which they take a prominent part. Mr. Griess maintains an interest in agriculture as the owner of farms in Fillmore, Clay and York counties and aside from his banking interests he devotes some time to writing insurance. Mr. Griess is a prominent and progressive man and readily acknowledged a leading citizen of Sutton.

MARTIN V. CLARK, M. B., M. D.

Dr. Martin V. Clark of Sutton is known as the pioneer doctor of Clay county, having been actively engaged in the practice of his profession here since 1871. There are few of the older residents of the county that do not remember him when he first came to Nebraska, a young doctor just starting out in his professional career. They have watched the rapid strides made by Dr. Clark, his achievement of success, and there is not one among them but sincerely admires him for his energy, determination and his sterling personal worth.

A native of Cuyahoga county, Ohio, Dr. Clark was born at Parma, April 28, 1840, and is a son of David and Ximena (Roberts) Clark. The father was born in Burlington, Connecticut, August 2, 1806, and the mother was a native of Hartford, that state. Their marriage was celebrated in Ohio, however, where both had come as young people, Mr. Clark having made the trip in 1838 with an ox team. Four children were born to this union, two of whom are living: Isaac N., of whom further mention is made on another page of this work; and Martin V., whose name initiates this review. Both Mr. and Mrs. Clark were active patrons of the Methodist Episcopal church and he was for many years a democrat, later becoming a republican. He served as justice of the peace of his county for some time and was chairman for war work in the county in 1861.

Following his preliminary education, on the outbreak of the Civil war, Dr. Martin V. Clark enlisted in the Union service, June 20, 1861, going to Camp



DR. MARTIN V. CLARK

Denniston near Cincinnati, Ohio. He became a member of Company C, Seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry and later served with the rank of sergeant in the Eighth Battery Ohio Artillery for fourteen months. He reenlisted and was in both national and state service for a period of five years. Dr. Clark heard a speech made by Abraham Lincoln at Champaign, Illinois, in 1856, and he was one of the escort who fired the salute when they brought the body of that great man through Cleveland, Ohio, following his assassination. After the war Dr. Clark again resumed his studies, entering Baldwin University in Ohio, from which he was graduated in 1867. He decided to enter the medical profession with the result that he became a student in the Western Reserve University at Cleveland, Ohio, obtaining his degree in 1869. After graduation he was professor of pharmacy at Berea, Ohio, and was on the committee to revise the United States pharmacopoeia at Washington, D. C., in 1870. He practiced medicine in Ohio until 1871 when he came to Clay county, Nebraska, and entered the drug business and medical profession, building up a large trade and lucrative practice. In addition to his professional interests Dr. Clark has been identified with some of the representative business enterprises of the county, having at one time been editor and proprietor of the Sutton Advertiser. For many years he has been a newspaper correspondent and is now correspondent for the Daily Bee of Omaha. During the Harrison administration he also served as postmaster of Sutton. When he first came to Clay county, Dr. Clark, in connection with his brother, Isaac N. Clark, purchased the townsite of Sutton from its original homesteader and the Doctor still owns about four and one-half acres there. Further mention of this land deal is made in the sketch of his brother Isaac N. Clark.

On the 4th of July, 1865, Dr. Clark was united in marriage to Miss Mary D. Henry, a native of Parma, Ohio, Her death occurred January 17, 1917, and came as a severe shock to her family and many friends in the community. Four children had been born to this union, three of whom are living: Alice, who is the wife of Dr. J. W. Thompson, a physician of Lincoln, Nebraska; Edith, who is the wife of O. W. Challburg, a real estate man and county commissioner; and Ruth, who married Elmer G. Briard, a farmer of Madison, Nebraska. Mamie, the second child born to Dr. and Mrs. Clark, died at the age of eleven years.

Politically Dr. Clark gives his support to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes a prominent part although he has neither sought nor desired public office. He was, however, a member of the first town council of Sutton and was the second coroner of Clay county. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church and his wife took a prominent part in the affairs of that organization. Fraternally Dr. Clark is a blue lodge and a Royal Arch Mason. In 1876 he compiled a history of Clay county, called the Centennial History. It gives a complete history of the county up to 1876 and is authentic in every detail. A committee had been appointed to gather the data but when the time came for active work it failed and the entire responsibility for the work devolved upon Dr. Clark. Among the many respected citizens of Sutton and Clay county are few if any who are entitled to more credit for an active and useful life than Dr. Clark. He has an extensive aquaintance throughout the county and is regarded as one of its most representative citizens.

Dr. Clark's biography would not be complete without recording his active and

extensive career as a legal chemist. After resigning his professorship of pharmacy, applied chemistry and toxicology in Baldwin University, Ohio, he came west, as before stated. Soon after, his training as an analytical chemist becoming known, he was employed by the courts of Clay and the adjoining counties and made toxicological analyses in the following cases of criminal poisonings, State vs. Anderson, Clay county, arsenic; State vs. Lee, Saline county, strychnia; State vs. Rath, Clay county, strychnia; State vs. Stevenson, Nuckolls county, corrosive sublimate, this being the first prosecution under the pharmacy act; State vs. Morse, Gage county, strychnia. A remarkable episode occurred during the trial of the latter case. After the case was given the jury Dr. Clark, having testified that a certain solution submitted in evidence contained strychnia in chloroform, General L. W. Colby, attorney for Morse—himself an expert chemist—poured out some of the alleged solution into a narrow, tall glass and filled it with water. Going on with his plea the contents of the glass had time to settle, the chlorooorm being colorless like water and heavier than it, carried all the poison to the bottom. Raising the glass before the astonished court and jury the attorney exclaimed "See me drink the poison," being careful, however, to leave all of the poisonous solution in the bottom of the glass. It was a clever ruse. The jury brought in a verdict of murder in first degree. On a technical error a new trial was had. Next trial jury disagreed. Morse died later, effects of bloodpoison. The Doctor has extensive and valuable interests in mines in Mexico and California, also oil interests in California, Montana and Wyoming. He with his brother Isaac N. gave a half interest in twelve acres to the city of Sutton, now covered with beautiful elms—"Clark Square" for a perpetual pleasure ground.

A. G. COREY

Among the valued and substantial citizens of Fairfield, Clay county, is A. G. Corey, who for many years was prominent in the agricultural development of York county. On removing to Fairfield he engaged in the implement business for some time and then received an appointment as postmaster. He received another appointment to the same position by Woodrow Wilson and is still active in that connection.

A. G. Corey was born near Janesville, Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1847, a son of Enos and Electo (Wilcox) Corey, both born near Meadville, Pennsylvania, the former in 1800 and the latter in 1803. They were married there and removed to Wisconsin at an early day, where the father bought land and engaged in farming. Mrs. Corey passed away on the farm in 1866 and the death of her husband occurred in 1898 in San Diego, California, where he had gone for a trip and rest. Nine children were born to that union, five of whom are living: Lucy, the wife of A. A. Titus of California; Alnora, the widow of a Mr. Tidman, and a resident of Wisconsin; A. G., the subject of this review; and Ira, a fruit farmer of Arkansas. The fraternal affiliation of Mr. Corey was with the Masons, of which order he was a Knight Templar, and his political allegiance was given to the democratic party. Four of his sons fought in the Civil war.

In the acquirement of an education A. G. Corey attended the schools of Kekoskee, Dodge county, Wisconsin, and after putting his schoolbooks aside engaged in farming with his father. At the age of seventeen years he offered his services to the Union army and enlisted in 1865 in the Two Hundred and Forty-fourth Wisconsin Infantry. He was in active service for nine months. At the close of the war he returned to his home in Wisconsin but soon afterward came to Nebraska and in 1868 located in York county, where he took up a homestead, whereon he resided for nearly twenty years. He then sold his homestead and removed to Fairfield, where for six months he engaged in the implement business. During Cleveland's second administration he was appointed postmaster and was again appointed to that office by Woodrow Wilson.

In 1871 occurred the marriage of Mr. Corey and Miss Mary Gilmore, further mention of whose family is made in the sketch of her brother, Sebastian Gilmore, to be found in another part of this work. Five children have been born to this union: Clarence, who owns a job printing plant in Omaha; Ethel, the wife of Ed. Lewis, a traveling man; Vernie, at home; M. L., in Omaha, where he is attorney for the Bank of Omaha; and A. B., roadmaster at Vancouver, Washington.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Corey the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party, having firm belief in the principles of that party as factors in good government. He was supervisor for five terms in York county and was holding that position at the time the courthouse was built. His religious faith is that of the Christian church and he is a member of the Modern Woodmen. Mr. Corey devotes his entire time and attention to his duties as postmaster and his many admirable traits of character, combined with his public-spirited citizenship, make him a highly esteemed and representative resident of Fairfield.

Y. W. WILLIAMS

In the year 1889 Y. W. Williams became a resident of York county, Nebraska, and through many years devoted his attention actively and successfully to the occupation of farming, but is now living retired in Giltner, although still the owner of a valuable farm property of two hundred and forty acres. He was born near Vera, Fayette county, Illinois, March 10, 1864, and was reared on a farm there. His father went to war when the subject of this review was only a few months old and was with Sherman on the celebrated march from Atlanta to the sea. Contracting measles he died while in the army, leaving his widow with four young children. When Y. W. Williams was but ten years of age his mother removed with her family to Vera. But the son ran the farm of one hundred and sixty acres, going from the mother's home in Vera to and from the farm which she owned, and as soon as he was old enough the son took charge of the place. He lived with his mother and cared for her property until 1889, or when twenty-five years of age. At that date he left Illinois and made his way westward to McCool Junction, York county, Nebraska, where he lived for a year. He then took up his abode at Clay Center, where he conducted a restaurant for eighteen months

and on the expiration of that period located in Giltner, where he conducted a restaurant for two years. He then resumed agricultural pursuits, going on a farm as a renter and for seven years cultivated leased land, during which period he carefully saved his earnings until industry and economy had brought him sufficient capital to enable him to purchase eighty acres of land in Scoville precinct. He later owned several farms acquired by trading property and devoted his attention to stock farming near Marquette for three years. In 1902 he located on a tract of one hundred and twenty acres and made that place his home for four years. He then purchased another farm of one hundred and sixty acres, previously having bought eighty acres adjoining and afterwards bought another one hundred and sixty acres. This land he sold in 1919 and later purchased two hundred and forty acres in Scoville township, which he still owns and from which he secures a substantial annual rental. He has put aside the more active work of the farm and is now living retired in Giltner, enjoying the fruits of his former toil in well earned rest.

On the 10th of March, 1891, Mr. Williams was married to Miss Jennie Upton, who was born and reared in the same place as her husband in Illinois, they having been schoolmates in early life. Both Mr. and Mrs. Williams are charter members of the Highlanders and Mrs. Williams is also an active worker in the Christian church. She has likewise been the secretary of the Royal Neighbors, which organization she joined as a charter member. She has been identified with the lodge at Giltner for twenty-five years and has been a delegate to state conventions. Her father was a soldier in the Civil war and her mother acted as a nurse among the soldiers. Both Mr. and Mrs. Williams are widely and favorably known in this part of the state and it has been through the industry and perseverance of Mr. Williams that he has reached a place among the men of affluence in the community. Year after year he labored diligently in the cultivation of his fields and the care of his crops and today is numbered among the substantial retired farmers of Hamilton county.

LEWIS CLARK DAVIS

Lewis Clark Davis was truly a self-made man and one whose life record should serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, showing what can be accomplished by persistent effort intelligently directed. His birth occurred at Waterloo, Illinois, in 1829 and he passed away on April 4, 1914. His father was George Davis, a native of Wales, who came to the United States in early life and settled in Illinois, where his remaining days were passed.

Reared in his native state, Lewis Clark Davis after reaching adult age was married at Waterloo, Illinois, to Mary Catherine Anson, who was there born, a daughter of F. B. Anson, a native of England, who came to the United States at the age of fifteen years, establishing his home in Illinois, where he spent the rest of his life.

Lewis C. Davis devoted his life to the occupation of farming, which he followed successfully in Illinois for a considerable period, winning splendid returns from his labor during the period of his residence at Macon, Illinois. He came to Clay

Center in 1892 and afterward lived retired here until his death but was the owner of several sections of land in Clay county and also had a section near Sidney, Nebraska, and a section and a half near Alliance, owning several thousand acres of land. His extensive property interests were acquired entirely through his own efforts. He passed through all of the hardships of the pioneer days and had two severe losses by fire. It was necessary to borrow money at twenty per cent in order to gain a start, but with determination and energy he overcame all obstacles and difficulties in his path and step by step advanced toward the goal of prosperity.

To Mr. and Mrs. Davis was born one child, Mrs. George Olive. Her first husband was Elwood N. Williamson, who died in 1884. She later became the wife of J. G. Slick and is now living in Clay Center. She had seven children, of whom six are living: Lewis Williamson, who is looking after his grandfather's interests in Clay Center; Ruby, the wife of W. C. Hobrock, engaged in the clothing business in Seattle, Washington; Joseph D., a newspaper man of Los Angeles, California; John Willard, a photographer at Los Angeles; Pearl, who is attending the Conservatory of Music in Lincoln; and Opal, who is a student in the State University. Paul died in 1917. Her eldest child, Lewis Williamson, was a son of her first marriage, while the others were born of her second marriage.

Her father, Lewis Clark Davis, was a democrat in his political views and his religious faith was that of the Baptist church. He was loyal to any cause which he espoused and the sterling worth of his character was recognized by all who knew him. His life record proves conclusively what can be accomplished through earnestness and determination and throughout his entire career his integrity and honor measured up to his industry.

REV. KARL A. ISAKSON

Rev. Karl A. Isakson, minister of the Swedish Evangelical Mission at Aurora, was born September 15, 1855, in Sweden, a son of Isaac and Elise (Anderson) Swanson, who were also natives of that country, where they spent their entire lives, the father devoting his attention to farming. He passed away at the age of forty years while the mother long survived, her death occurring in 1908. They were both members of the Lutheran church and in that faith reared their family of five children: John, who is now a lumberman of Sweden; Joseph, likewise of Sweden; Karl A. of this review; and Johanes and Johanna, who are also living in Sweden.

Karl A. Isakson was educated in Sweden pursuing a high school course there and after coming to the new world entered a theological college at Minneapolis, Minnesota. He began preaching before leaving his native country and continued in the work of the ministry there until he came to the new world in 1881. Later he preached in Minneapolis for six years and then went to Buffalo, Minnesota, where he remained as pastor of the church for nineteen years. Moreover, he was the organizer of the church of that place and his influence was a marked element in the moral progress of the community. In 1904 he located at Malmo, Nebraska, where he remained as pastor of the church until 1912 and then came to Aurora to take charge of the Swedish Evangelical Mission at this place.

In 1884 Mr. Isakson was married to Miss Elise Johnson who was born in Sweden, where her parents spent their entire lives. They have become parents of six children, one of whom has passed away. The others are: Minnie, the wife of C. O. Anderson, an attorney of Omaha, Nebraska; Edith, who is in charge of the office of the Swedish Mission Hospital at Omaha; Frances, the wife of William Houquist, a jeweler of Minneapolis; Manard, cashier of the First National Bank at Marquette, Nebraska; and Arnold, who is employed in the First National Bank at Aurora.

In his political views Mr. Isakson is a republican and keeps well informed on questions and issues of the day but practically his entire time and attention are devoted to the work of the church which has a membership of more than a hundred. He is widely known in this section, enjoying the warm regard of not only his own parishioners but of people of all denominations. Mr. Isakson is also president of the Swedish Evangelical Association of Nebraska.

PHILIP C. HOUSEL

A prominent agriculturist of Stockham, Hamilton county, Nebraska, is Philip C. Housel who since 1913 has been living retired in that place. He was born in Henderson county, New Jersey, May 15, 1841, a son of Thurman and Marguerite (Carpenter) Housel. In 1854 the parents removed to Wisconsin and there the father engaged in farming in the wooded country. There were some bears and deer were plentiful in the vicinity of the home farm where they resided until death claimed them.

Philip C. Housel received some of his education in his native state but in 1854 removed with his parents to Wisconsin, where he completed his education. He attended primitive schools constructed of logs and containing wooden benches and when he could spare time from his school and farm duties he often went hunting with the other boys in the neighborhood, deer and bears being plentiful in that section of the country. After putting his textbooks aside he worked out on farms, being in one man's employ for three years. During this time he learned every phase of farming and then started farming on his own account, operating rented land for one year. In 1870 he determined to come west and started from Wisconsin that year. He took with him one team, two colts, one yearling colt, a half dozen chickens and two fox hounds. This journey took twenty-one days and he arrived in Nebraska on the 16th of June. He preempted one hundred and sixty acres of land in Orville precinct and built a house, part log and with a sod roof and a dugout barn. He broke the greater part of this land himself and hauled his first provisions from Lincoln. His fuel was obtained along the creek and river banks and his grist had to be taken to Milford, a distance of fifty miles. Twice he experienced loss in the grasshopper storms, in one of them losing every ear of corn. During the severe Easter blizzard of 1873 Mr. Housel was snowed in for three days and three nights. He and his brother, Gardner, weathered a part of this storm in their endeavor to save their cattle and as a result lost but one cow and a calf. Buffalo hunting was then both a pleasure and a necessity



MR. AND MRS. PHILIP C. HOUSEL

and on one of those hunts in company with eleven men, they returned home with all the meat their horses could pull. Indians came through Mr. Housel's land twice a year on hunting trips. He brought his land up to a highly cultivated state, adding more to his original tract until he had two hundred and twenty acres. He is still in possession of this land and is widely known throughout the country as a leader in general farming and stock raising circles. In 1913 Mr. Housel retired from active farm life and removed to Stockham where he is now residing.

On the 19th of March, 1872, occurred the marriage of Mr. Housel and Miss Sarah Land, a native of Green county, Wisconsin, and a daughter of Jackson Land. The marriage took place in Hamilton county where Jackson Land had acquired a homestead. The father was an old soldier and one of the prominent and successful men of the county in which he made his home. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Housel nine children have been born: Furman of Lewiston, Montana, where he is engaged in farming; Maggie, deceased; Sidney, who carries raidroad mail for Stockham; Bertha, the wife of Elmer Cole of near Ansley, Nebraska; William, who is residing on a homestead in Montana; Gardner, farming on the old place; Lucy, who is the wife of Elmer Mintun, a homesteader of Kimberly, Idaho; Osia, the wife of Robert Johnson, a farmer of Custer county; and Susie Jane, who is the wife of Lloyd Kissel, farming in Hamilton county.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Housel the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party, being a firm believer in the principles of that party as factors in good government. The religious faith of the family is that of the Methodist church and Mr. and Mrs. Housel are very active in the charitable affairs of the church. Fraternally Mr. Housel is a Master Mason, belonging to the lodge at Sutton. He has always taken a very active interest in the affairs of the community and has served his fellow citizens as county commissioner for a period of four years and as a member of the town board for four years. For thirty-five years he has been treasurer of the school board and he has in every way endeavored to promote educational advantages in his community. He is recognized as a man of keen business ability and has acted as administrator of two estates in the county in past years. The success which Mr. Housel now enjoys is the result of his own labor, energy and grim determination. He allowed no obstacle to long remain in his path and as a result has achieved the goal which was his aim.

OSCAR GUNNARSON

Oscar Gunnarson, a prominent figure in real estate circles in Aurora, was born in Sweden, September 17, 1861, his parents being Andrew and Christina (Anderson) Gunnarson, who were also natives of Sweden and came to the United States in 1867, first settling in Bureau county, Illinois. There they resided for two years and in 1869 went to Kansas, while in 1873 they removed to Lincoln, Nebraska. Six years later they established their home in Polk county, Nebraska, and in 1883 they came to Hamilton county. Mr. Gunnarson's father homesteaded in Polk county and

occupied the farm for twenty years, first living in a sod house while later he erected a frame residence. After many years devoted to successful farming he retired from business and removed to Aurora, where he died in 1901, having for several years survived his wife who passed away in 1895. They were members of the Swedish Mission church and Mr. Gunnarson gave his political support to the republican party. He deserved much credit for what he accomplished in the world, being a self-made man and his progress and prosperity were due entirely to his industry and capability. To him and his wife were born nine children, of whom seven are living: Joe, who resided in the United States for a number of years, but is now a retired business man of Stockholm, Sweden; Alfred, a retired farmer, living at Aurora; Oscar, of this review; Mrs. Anna Meyer, a widow living at Lincoln, Nebraska; Ida, who has been postmistress at Station A in Lincoln for twenty-six years; Emma, the wife of Oliver Westberg, a retired farmer of Osceola, Nebraska; and Charles, who is assistant manager of a large wholesale and retail store in Los Angeles, California.

Oscar Gunnarson was educated in the schools of Lincoln and his first occupation was that of farming and stock feeding. In early manhood he also traveled for the firm of Clay Robinson & Company of Chicago and later turned his attention to the real estate business in which he has now been engaged in Aurora for twenty-three years. He is thoroughly familiar with the property on the market, is a most accurate valuator of real estate and has negotiated many important property transfers. In all of his business affairs he is thoroughly progressive and reliable and his enterprise has brought him a gratifying measure of success. An important feature of his business has been immigration work. For eight years he was with the Burlington Railroad, selling land in Montana, Nebraska, Colorado, and Canada. He has improved his opportunities for judicious investment and owns considerable land and a nice home.

In 1884 Mr. Gunnarson was married to Miss Emma Berg, who was born in Sweden and came to the United States with her parents. Her father, Peter Berg, settled in Iowa and their home was near Dayton. Both he and his wife are deceased. A. J. Bernquest, governor of Minnesota, is an own cousin of Mrs. Gunnarson.

To Mr. and Mrs. Gunnarson have been born two children: Max, a prominent wheat raiser of Canada, who for four years was in the Aurora State Bank, who served as tax collector in Texas, and was a soldier in the World war. He was graduated from the high school, from the Nebraska State University and in 1917 entered the service, participating in some of the leading battles and drives that occurred on the western front. He served as second sergeant in the quartermaster's department; Mae, the second of the family, was graduated from the high school and from the State University and is also connected with wheat raising in Canada, living with her brother.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Swedish Mission church, in the work of which Mr. Gunnarson and his wife take an active and helpful interest. For fourteen years he has served as a member of the school board and is still acting in that capacity because education finds in him a stalwart champion. He has also been an earnest worker in the Young Men's Christian Association. He assisted in establishing the Swedish Mission Hospital at Omaha and was a member of its board of directors for some time and also served on the home finding board

at Omaha for twelve years. He has been instrumental in erecting four new school buildings during the period of his service on the school board and there is no plan nor progress for the benefit and upbuilding of the county that does not receive his endorsement and cooperation. For thirty-six years he has been a stalwart advocate of the democratic party and is ever most loyal in support of any cause which he espouses. His life, honorable and upright in every particular, has been a force for good in the community in which he lives and the sterling worth of his character is attested by all who know him.

CHRISTIAN A. WILSON

The year 1881 was the time of the immigration of Christian A. Wilson to the United States, and the same year recorded his arrival in Nebraska, which has been his home during the major part of the intervening period. He has been actively concerned with mercantile enterprise for many years and is now one of the leading merchants at Marquette, Hamilton county, where he has a well equipped general store and controls a large and representative trade.

Mr. Wilson was born in that part of the German province of Schleswig-Holstein which formerly constituted a grand duchy of Denmark, and the date of his nativity was February 28, 1863. He is a son of J. F. N. and Bothilla (Anderson) Wilson, who passed their entire lives in that section of Germany, the father having been a man of high intellectual attainments who gave the major part of his active career to effective service as a teacher in the schools of his native land. Of the surviving children four sons are residents of the United States: Andrew, who learned the trade of baker in Germany, is now engaged in the work of his trade at Aurora, Illinois; Julius is a tailor in the city of Chicago; John is one of the main stockholders in the Chicago Artificial Ice Company in that city; and C. A. is the subject of this sketch. Four of the children remain in Europe, namely: John P., who is a teacher by vocation; Mary, who is the wife of Peter Christenson, a farmer; Arnold, who is a miller and farmer in Denmark; and Catherine, who is the wife of Sonich Sorenson of Schleswig.

In his native land C. A. Wilson received excellent educational advantages, including those of the gymnasium, which is similar to the high school of the United States. Upon leaving school he was employed in mercantile establishments in his native land until 1881, when he severed home ties and came to America. Before the close of that year he was employed on a farm in Hamilton county, Nebraska, near the York county line, but his service in this capacity continued only two months and eight days, at the princely salary of fifteen dollars a month! After his brief farm experience he was employed eighteen months as a clerk in the general store of W. J. Williamson of Hampton, Hamilton county, and the next two years found him similarly engaged with the firm of Stubbs & White of Bradshaw, York county. Later he was a partner of his former employer, Mr. Williamson, in the general merchandise business at Hampton for one and one-half years, at the expiration of which time he sold his interest and removed to Akron, Colorado, where he was engaged in the meat market, real estate and locating business about eighteen months.

He then returned to Hampton, again in the employ of Mr. Williamson, and upon leaving that position was similarly employed for four years in a store at St. Paul, Howard county. He then made a trip to Wyoming after which he visited his old home in Germany, where he remained six months. Upon his return to Nebraska he again became associated with the Williamson mercantile establishment at Hampton, but in April, 1895, he formed a partnership with Peter A. Jacobson and opened a general store at Marquette. The firm developed a prosperous enterprise and the original alliance continued until 1900, when Mr. Jacobson sold his interest in the business, which was conducted under the firm name of Wilson & Ostblom until 1909, when Mr. Wilson purchased his partner's interest and assumed full control. He has since continued the business in an individual way and his reputation as a progressive and reliable business man is in harmony with his standing as a loyal and public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Wilson takes lively interest in community affairs of a public order, is a stanch republican, is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Royal Highlanders and the Danish Brotherhood and he and his wife are communicants of the Lutheran church.

In 1893 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Wilson to Miss Jennie Bendstrup, who was born in Denmark, and they have four children: John C., who is assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Marquette, was in the nation's service in the late World war, his training having been received at Camp Funston, Kansas, and he saw twenty-two months' service with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, as a member of the headquarters medical department of the Eighty-ninth Division; Blanche is a popular teacher in the public schools of Alliance, Box Butte county, being principal of the school at the time of this writing, in the spring of 1921; Alvin is an effective assistant in his father's store; and Esther is employed as a stenographer in the offices of the Griswold Seed Company at Lincoln.

ELLIOT D. SNIDER

In section 1 of Scoville township is found the well improved and attractive homestead farm which marks Mr. Snider as one of the prosperous and progressive representatives of agricultural and live stock industry in Hamilton county and his is a goodly measure of pioneer honors in connection with the civic and industrial development of this county. His ability is attested by the marked success he has achieved within the years of his residence in Nebraska and his high standing in popular esteem vouches for his admirable personal characteristics.

Mr. Snider was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, on the 8th of August, 1858, and is a scion of sterling pioneer stock in the Badger state, his parents, David D. and Jane E. (Casler) Snider, having been natives, respectively, of Maryland and New York and their marriage having been solemnized in Wisconsin, where the Snider and Casler families were founded in the pioneer days. David D. Snider, a son of John Jacob Snider, was a youth at the time of the family removal to Wisconsin, where he early gained full experience in connection with the work of the pioneer farm, the family habitation having been a log house, and this type

of domicile having been the birthplace of Elliot D. Snider. The father was a resident of Hamilton county, Nebraska, at the time of his death, in 1915, aged eighty years. The mother is living in Giltner, Nebraska, aged eighty years. They so ordered their course as to merit the high regard in which they were uniformly held.

The public schools of his native state afforded Elliot D. Snider his early education, which included a high school course. That he made good use of these advantages is evident when it is stated that as a young man he became a successful and popular teacher in the schools of Hamilton county, Nebraska.

In 1879, shortly after attaining his majority, Mr. Snider and his father drove through, with two teams and two wagons, from Wisconsin to Hamilton county, Nebraska, three weeks being spent in completing the trip and an incident of the journey was the crossing of the Missouri river, at Plattsmouth, where they were delayed for a time by reason of the fact that the ferry-boat became lodged in the mud of that stream. They brought a small supply of household goods and installed them in the sod house which they erected on eighty acres of railroad land which they purchased, in the present township of Union. This pioneer house was fourteen by twenty-eight feet in dimensions and continued to be the family's abiding place for six years. On his old place Elliot D. Snider set out a goodly number of native trees, as well as orchard trees, the most of the latter having died out in later years. He reclaimed his land to cultivation and with increasing prosperity added to the area of his farm holdings. He experienced his share of losses and hardships in the early days, including loss of crops through droughts, but adverse conditions did not cause him to lose faith in the state of his adoption and his present prosperity fully justifies that faith. He is the eldest in a family of five children, and his next younger brother, Elmer, is living retired at Giltner, this county; Charles died in 1892, at the age of twenty-eight years; David, Jr., is engaged in the bakery business at Gothenburg, Dawson county; and Melvia, the widow of Charles Hochruter, resides at Ravenna, Buffalo county. The honored father served as assessor in Hamilton county in the early days and was one of the highly honored citizens of this county at the time of his death, when eighty years of age. He was a Civil war veteran, having enlisted from Wisconsin in 1864 with Company O, Forty-third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He was a corporal and participated in several skirmishes, serving to the end of the war.

Elliot D. Snider found his previous teaching experience of distinctive value after establishing his residence in Hamilton county, for here he gave about ten years of specially effective service as a teacher in the rural schools. He thus presided in typical sod schoolhouses of the early days, the equipment being of primitive type and including handmade benches and desks. In 1879, the year of his arrival in the county, he purchased eighty acres of land in Scoville township and for this now valuable property he paid at the rate of five dollars an acre. He made payment largely through the medium of his earnings as a teacher and hired men to do the breaking of most of his land. He still owns and resides on his original homestead farm, which is now one of the model places of Scoville township and his total holdings of farm land in this county now aggregate fully seven hundred and twenty acres. He has been one of the vigorous and progressive representatives of the agricultural and live stock industry in the county and has

been successful also in the feeding and the buying and shipping of live stock. He is the owner also of land in Cheyenne and Deuel counties and is actively interested in development work in those counties. Mr. Snider is an uncompromising advocate of the principles of the republican party and has been influential in its councils and campaign activities in Hamilton county. He is president of the Hamilton County Telephone Company and is known and valued as a most loyal and liberal citizen. In his immediate family circle there is no division of political sentiment, for his wife likewise is a republican, she having cast her first vote in 1920.

In 1890 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Snider to Miss Elizabeth J. Sherrard, who was born in Illinois, a daughter of Joseph and Nancy (Sowers) Sherrard, who resided in Mercer county, Illinois, but are now deceased. Mrs. Snider was one of the successful teachers of Hamilton county, to which place she came in 1887. She taught in the city schools of Reynolds, Illinois, and in the country schools of Hamilton county for three years. One son (Mark) was born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Snider. He died at the age of eight months.

CHARLES MILTON JUETT

In the passing of Charles Milton Juett Hamilton county lost a progressive and representative citizen. His death occurred on the home farm December 10, 1914, and was an occasion of deep grief to his many friends throughout the community. A native of Ohio he was born in Fayette county, February 26, 1839, a son of Robert D. and Elizabeth (Clifton) Juett, the former a native of Kentucky while the latter was born in Ohio.

In early boyhood Charles M. Juett removed with his parents to New London, Iowa, and there received his education in the common schools. They made their home in Henry county, that state, where the father had taken up some timber land and Charles M. Juett assisted him with the farm work until the outbreak of the Civil war. He then enlisted in Company K, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, serving four years, and receiving his honorable discharge in 1865. He participated in many of the important battles of that conflict and was with Sherman on his march to the sea. After the close of the war he returned to Iowa, residing in Mt. Pleasant for a time, but in 1872 came west, settling in Hamilton county. There he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres but after the destruction of his crops by the grasshoppers returned to his home in Iowa. There he was married and soon afterward came west again, returning to Hamilton county. He made the trip overland with a mule team and brought some farm equipment in the shape of a mower and corn planter. His first home was a dugout with but one window and there he lived for two years and then built a small frame house. Their fuel was secured by burning cornstalks. And again in the year 1876 he lost everything as the result of another grasshopper storm. During the severe Easter blizzard he brought his horses into the house to keep them from freezing. Mr. Juett hauled his freight from Grand Island and Harvard and took his wheat to Farmers Valley mill. He survived all the hardships of early pioneer life, made a success of his farming and



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES M. JUETT

at the time of his death owned four hundred and twenty acres of valuable land. He had but twenty-six dollars when he first came to Hamilton county.

In 1876 in Iowa occurred the marriage of Mr. Juett and Miss Elizabeth M. Juett, a native of Fulton county, Illinois. Nine children were born to their union: L. E., who died at the age of thirty-three years; Versses, engaged in farming in Hamilton county; Vella, the wife of Charles Bricker of Northport; Burt, a farmer of Hamilton county; Charles, who died at the age of two years; Mont J., farming in Hamilton county; Milton R., who is living with his mother; Sarah J., who is the wife of Calvin Lewis, residing near Litchfield, where he is engaged in farming; and Lafayette. Lafayette enlisted from Hamilton county, July 22, 1917, for service in the World war. He received his training at Camp Dodge, went overseas, was soon afterwards placed in the medical corps and participated in the battle at St. Mihiel. After the signing of the armistice he was sent home and received his discharge at Camp Dodge.

Throughout his life Mr. Juett was a stanch democrat and also held membership in the Grand Army of the Republic at Giltner. He was known throughout the country as a progressive and successful agriculturist and his death has left a void in the community which will be hard to fill. His widow is still living on the home farm and is one of the prominent women of the vicinity.

ALBERT RATH

Albert Rath, who is now farming two hundred and eighty acres of fine land in Clay county, was born in Maywood, Illinois, on the 22d of October, 1865, and there resided, receiving his education in the country schools until he reached the age of eighteen years.

After putting his textbooks aside Albert Rath began working out on farms and in 1886 went to Kansas where he engaged in like work for one year. He then came to Nebraska, locating in Clay county, where he rented land and then purchased the lease on some school land of one hundred and twenty acres and started farming on his own account. He was successful in this farming venture from the first and soon increased his farm tract until he is now in possession of two hundred and eighty acres of fine improved land. He experienced all of the pioneer hardships of the early times and during the years of 1893 and 1894 raised practically nothing. But as a man of great force and strong determination Mr. Rath never allowed any obstacle to remain long in his path and as a result is now enjoying well earned success. He has always engaged in general farming and is recognized as one of the leading agriculturists of the county.

Before leaving Illinois Mr. Rath was married to Miss Irene Hanna, also a native of that state, and to them seven children have been born: William; Irving; Grace; Laura; Effie; Howard; and Everett.

Mr. Rath is a stanch supporter of the democratic party, being a firm believer in the principles of that party as factors in good government. He has always been active in the affairs of the community and has served as moderator on the school board and also as township treasurer. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern

Woodmen of America. Mrs. Rath is prominent in the activities of the Methodist Episcopal church of Eldorado, of which she is a consistent member. Although the greater part of Mr. Rath's time has been devoted to his agricultural interests he has taken some interest in business circles, being a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator at Eldorado. Mr. Rath is indeed a representative citizen of Clay county and has many friends who appreciate his sterling characteristics and true personal worth.

SIMEON B. MONTGOMERY

When Simeon B. Montgomery passed away on the 9th of March, 1920, Clay and Nuckolls counties lost a pioneer and representative citizen. A native of Ohio, his birth occurred in Franklin county on the 11th of August, 1842, a son of Boone and Sallie Montgomery. His father was a tanner by trade and was well known throughout the community. Both parents resided in Ohio until death called them.

Simeon B. Montgomery received his education in Ohio and in 1873 came west, taking up a homestead in Nuckolls county. He passed through the Easter blizzard of 1873 and for three days was confined to the house, having to stay in bed in order to keep warm. He was a carpenter by trade and would go from the homestead every Monday morning to work in the vicinity throughout the week, leaving his wife and two children to hold down the land. It was two years before Mr. Montgomery got the title to the land. In 1875 he removed to Edgar and for two years worked out, at the end of that time engaging in the lumber business with his oldest son, William. From that year until 1918 he was active along that line of work and then retired. His death, which occurred on the 9th of March, 1920, came as a severe shock to his many friends in the county.

On the 28th of November, 1867, Mr. Montgomery was united in marriage to Miss Maria J. Peterson, a native of Ohio, where her birth occurred on the 21st of August, 1848. Her parents were Cornelius and Rhoda Peterson, also natives of Ohio and the parents of eleven children, four of whom are living. Mrs. Montgomery was the youngest member of the family. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery: Sallie B., who was born October 28, 1868, became the wife of Gaylord Wright, and died in 1908; William Ellis, whose birth occurred September 28, 1872, and is now bookkeeper for a large lumber-yard at Lewiston, Montana; George Thomas, born on the 7th of October, 1876, and now clerking in Rochester, Minnesota; Olive May, who is the wife of David Lee and resides in Detroit, Michigan; Mary Grace, the wife of Elmer Hager, a jeweler of Clay Center; and Ellie Frees, who married George Miller of Beatrice, a traveling salesman.

Throughout his entire life Mr. Montgomery was a stanch supporter of the democratic party, having firm belief in the principles of that party as factors in good government. His religious faith was that of the Christian church and fraternally he was identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which order he was a member for twenty years. His funeral was in charge of that organization. There was no phase of the pioneer life and development of Nuckolls and Clay counties with which he was not thoroughly familiar, experience bringing him into contact with many of the conditions and hardships of the early days, while with

the passing years, as the result of his industry and perseverance, he prospered. Mrs. Montgomery is now residing in Edgar, where she owns a nice home and in addition one hundred and sixty acres of fine land in Nuckolls county.

WILLIAM H. SUNDERMEIER

In scrutinizing the more salient points in the career of this well known citizen and representative farmer of Hamilton county, there is given a definite appreciation of the fact that in the most emphatic sense he has been the architect of his own fortunes. He became virtually dependent upon his own resources when a mere boy, has known from youthful experience a goodly amount about pioneer times in Nebraska and his ability and well ordered activities have enabled him here to win a generous measure of material prosperity. In Deepwell township, Hamilton county, his attractive homestead farm is found in sections Nos. 19 and 20, and his landed estate in the county now comprises four hundred acres of valuable land a fact that bears its own significance as to his status in the community and the splendid success that has attended his earnest endeavors as one of the world's productive workers.

Mr. Sundermeier was born in Germany, on the 24th of December, 1872, and is a son of Henry and Minnie (Meier) Sundermeier, who came to America and established their home in Merrick county, Nebraska, on the 2d of June, 1884. For a time the father was employed at farm work in Merrick county and later became the owner of a farm. He developed this farm and continued his residence in Merrick county until he and his wife removed to the state of Oregon, where they passed the remainder of their lives. William H. Sundermeier was eleven years old at the time of the family arrival in Merrick county, Nebraska, but even prior to this, when but eight years old, he had begun to work for his board and clothing. He attended school at intervals as a boy and youth in Merrick county, and at the age of twelve years was receiving six dollars a month for his services as a farm workman. He continued in the employ of one man for five years and seven months and at the age of twenty-one years initiated his independent career as a farmer by renting land in Hamilton county. He thus continued operations three years and then purchased eighty acres in Deepwell township, for a consideration of one thousand and seven hundred dollars. The building improvements on the place when it came into his possession were mainly represented by a small house of frame and sod construction and a small frame barn. Later he purchased an adjoining eighty acres and it was about the year 1904 that he sold this property and removed to Oregon, in which state he remained eleven months. He then returned to Hamilton county and repurchased his former farm. Two years later he purchased three hundred and twenty acres in section 20, Deepwell township, and here has developed one of the model farm properties of this section of Nebraska. He erected on the farm a modern house and other good buildings, has set out an orchard, to which he has given scientific care and has brought his land up to the best standard of productiveness. He is now owner of four hundred acres, devoted to diversified agriculture and the raising of excellent types of live stock and it is interesting to record that he showed his loyalty during

the nation's participation in the World war by keeping the productive activities of his farm up to the highest possible point, in keeping with the policy earnestly urged by the government. In achieving this result he and one of his sons had the personal care of the entire four hundred acres and did in an individual way the large amount of work required of them in this connection at a time when it was virtually impossible to hire farm hands in this section of the state.

At the age of twenty-four years Mr. Sundermeier was united in marriage to Miss Anna Schroeder, who likewise is a native of Germany and who has proved a veritable helpmeet to her husband in his forward movement to the goal of substantial prosperity. Of their children the eldest is William, who resides on and has active management of one of his father's farms; Ida is the wife of Henry Obermeier, another prosperous farmer of Hamilton county; Rose is the wife of Gottlieb Kuehner, a farmer of this county; and Alice, Theodore, Arthur, Jessie, Elaine and Delares all remain at home, the vitality and cheer of which is assured by this gracious family circle.

Mr. Sundermeier naturally takes pride in his fine farm property and continues to give to it his personal supervision, the while he is progressive alike in his industrial enterprise and in his attitude as a citizen. He is a stockholder in the Bank of Phillips and the Phillips Grain Company and is a director of the Farmers Lumber Company at Phillips. He is a member of the school board of his district and is a trustee of the Lutheran church at Doniphan, of which he and his wife are zealous communicants.

PETER C. KRABIEL

Peter C. Krabiel, engaged in general farming on section 34 in the precinct of Hamilton, Hamilton county, and also interested in the Farmers' Elevator at Giltner, was born in Woodford county, Illinois, August 23, 1863. He was reared on a farm and pursued his early education in the district schools, while later he attended the town schools and for a time studied in Metamora, Illinois. Through his youthful days he remained with his parents on the home farm and early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He afterward worked out as a farm hand at eighteen dollars per month and still later worked at the carpenter's trade at a dollar and a quarter per day.

The year 1883 witnessed the arrival of Peter C. Krabiel in Nebraska, for in that year he came with his parents to Hamilton county. Here he began farming on his own account on rented land in 1888 and for several years continued to cultivate leased land, but carefully saved his earnings until his capital was sufficient to enable him to purchase a forty acre farm. Then he and his father bought eighty acres upon which there was a small frame house and some minor improvements. Mr. Krabiel put every fence, post and tree on the place, substantial buildings now adorning it, and he broke about one-half of the land. He now owns altogether four hundred acres of excellent farm property on which are two sets of good farm buildings and his attention is given to general agricultural pursuits and stock raising, although he rents most of his land.

Mr. Krabiel is connected with the Farmers' Elevator Company of Giltner. He is an independent voter, nor has he ever been an office holder, but has served on the school board of district No. 70. He has led an active and useful life and his energy has carried him steadily forward to the goal of success, so that he is now one of the substantial agriculturists of Hamilton precinct.

MELCHIOR FIGI

Melchior Figi has been a resident of Sutton for twenty-five years and during that time has become widely known throughout the community as a business man of great ability. Twenty-four years of this time Melchior Figi has devoted to the conduct of a mercantile establishment, building up an extensive trade, but in March, 1920, he retired from that business and entered the Sutton Bank as vice president.

Melchior Figi was born in Switzerland, March 21, 1865, a son of Adam and Sarah (Speich) Figi, both natives of that country. They came to America and made their home in Wisconsin for four years, but at the termination of that period returned to Switzerland where both passed away. The father was a successful merchant and had followed that line of business throughout his entire life. Five children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Figi, four of whom are living, Mr. Figi being the only member of the family residing in the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Figi were consistent members of the Congregational church.

Mr. Figi received his early education in Switzerland, but also attended the country schools in York county for a number of years. In 1880 he settled in Hamilton county, where he obtained work on his uncle's farm and there remained until he saved up enough to purchase some land and engage in farming on his own account. For sixteen years he was a leading figure in the agricultural circles of the county and then disposing of his farm removed to Sutton, where he has made his home for twenty-five years. On arriving in Sutton he engaged in the general mercantile business, in which line of work he was actively engaged until in March of the year 1920, when he became vice president of the Sutton State Bank.

In 1887 in Hamilton county occurred the marriage of Mr. Figi and Miss Abbie Clark, a daughter of F. H. Clark, an early pioneer of Hamilton county. He was an old soldier and built the first frame house in Hamilton county, hauling lumber from Beaver Crossing and Lincoln to build his home. Mrs. Figi was the first female white child born in Hamilton county. Five children have been born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Figi: Sarah, who is the wife of V. Breeden, station agent for the B. & M. Railroad at Ericson; Lucy, who married St. Clair Dickson, a farmer near Saronville; Fred A., who is residing in Rochester, Minnesota, where he is a doctor connected with the Mayo Brothers Sanitarium; Anna, who is the wife of Harold Patterson, a dentist of Geneva; and Robert, in school. Dr. Fred A. Figi was in service in the World war nine months, but did not get across. He was located at a base hospital at Hampton Roads.

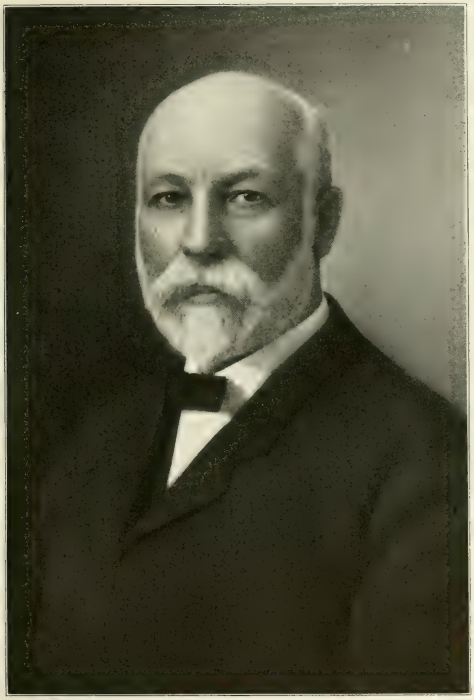
Mr. Figi is a stanch republican and takes an active interest in the affairs

of that party, both locally and nationally. His religious faith is that of the Congregational church and fraternally he is a Woodman, Odd Fellow and a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Mr. Figi has been active in civic affairs as a member of the town board and is now serving on the township board. He is owner of considerable land and other property, being in possession of two farms, one in Hamilton county and the other in Buffalo county and also owns the opera house in Sutton. Mr. Figi is in every sense of the word a self-made man, having acquired every dollar of his fortune by his own diligence and industry.

THOMAS EDWARD WILLIAMS

Thomas Edward Williams, who has retired from business after almost thirty years' connection with banking in Aurora, took up his abode in this city in 1888. His straightforward policy, his progressiveness tempered by a safe conservatism and his enterprise and reliability were salient features in the attainment of the success which he is now enjoying. Mr. Williams was born in Dodge county, Wisconsin, March 23, 1849, and is a son of George W. and Malinda (Streeter) Williams. The father was born in Le Roy, Genesee county, New York, June 7, 1824, and his life record covered the intervening years to February, 1886. He was a son of James Williams, who removed westward to Wisconsin in 1844 and spent his last days on a farm in Jefferson county, Wisconsin. He came of Welsh ancestry. The maternal grandfather, Henry Streeter, was also a native of the Empire state and in 1844 took up his abode in Wisconsin. In 1872 he came to Nebraska to reside until his life's labors were ended in death. He came of a family of English ancestry. His daughter, Mrs. George W. Williams, was born near Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence county, New York, August 2, 1829. It was in the year 1844 that Mr. and Mrs. George W. Williams went to Wisconsin—the same year in which their respective parents became residents of that state. Mr. Williams settled on a farm and it was in the Badger state that he wedded Malinda Streeter. He concentrated his efforts and attention upon business affairs and became well known as a business man at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where he continued to live until his death in February, 1886. His affairs were capably and successfully managed and he thus gained a substantial measure of prosperity. His early political support was given to the whig party and he afterward became a stanch republican, doing everything in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of the party. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and both he and his wife were consistent members of the Universalist church. They had a family of seven children, but only four are living: Thomas E.; Ella, the wife of L. C. Fredricks, a grocer of Helena, Montana; William P., an expert accountant who is now engaged in the auto parts business in Seattle, Washington; and George. The mother, Mrs. Malinda (Streeter) Williams, passed away in February, 1911.

Thomas E. Williams obtained a high school education in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and afterward completed three years' work in Cornell University at Ithaca, New York. He early took up the profession of teaching, which he followed in the schools of Wisconsin, spending eleven years as superintendent of schools at Augusta,



THOMAS E. WILLIAMS

that state. He afterward turned his attention to mercantile pursuits in Eau Claire and was thus engaged in business for five years. In 1888 he arrived in Aurora, where he purchased an interest in the Farmers & Merchants Bank, of which he became cashier and manager. After two years this bank was merged with the Hamilton County Bank and Mr. Williams continued as cashier of the consolidated organization. He remained with the Hamilton County Bank until 1896, when it was merged with the Aurora Bank Company under the name of the Hamilton County Bank, and in October, 1898, the Hamilton County Bank purchased the First National Bank, the new organization being perfected under the name of the First National, having the same officers, with Mr. Williams as cashier. In this position he continued to serve until 1909, when he became president and as head of the bank bent his energies to administrative direction and executive control. He sold his interest in the bank in 1917, after almost thirty years' identification with the financial interests of Aurora, and throughout the entire period he bore an unassailable reputation for the integrity of his methods as well as for his enterprise.

On the 1st of August, 1873, Mr. Williams was married to Miss Lida Kemp, who was born in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and passed away in June, 1899. On the 21st of December, 1904, Mr. Williams wedded Susanna Eliza Sirwell, who was born in Evansville, Indiana, but educated and reared in St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. Williams belongs to the Masonic lodge and is a loyal follower of the teachings and purposes of the craft. In politics he is a stalwart republican and in 1885 was elected to represent his district in the state legislature of Wisconsin. He has never sought nor desired political office, preferring that his public service should be performed as a private citizen. He was a delegate to the national convention when Taft was elected president and has been a delegate to the state conventions at different times. In 1916 he was one of the presidential electors on the republican ticket. Mr. Williams was very active in all World war campaigns and gave liberally to the support of all war work and to charities, etc. He is loyal to all interests pertaining to the welfare and upbuilding of his community and his cooperation can at all times be counted upon to further measures for the general good. He is a gentleman of genial, social disposition whose circle of friends is almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

JONATHAN BIERBOWER

After many years of vigorous and productive activity in connection with agriculture and stock raising Mr. Bierbower is now living in well earned retirement and comfort and has an attractive home in the village of Giltner, his residence in Hamilton county having covered a period of more than thirty years, so that he is entitled to a measure of pioneer distinction.

Mr. Bierbower was born in Brown county, Ohio, on the 10th of September, 1846, and in the year of his birth his parents set forth to number themselves among the pioneer settlers of Iowa. They journeyed down the Ohio river and then up the Mississippi river to Muscatine, Iowa, and resided in this state for about twelve

years. They then removed to McLean county, Illinois, in which state they passed the remainder of their lives, the father having given the major part of his active life to farm industry.

Jonathan Bierbower gained his rudimentary education in the pioneer schools of Iowa and was twelve years old at the time of the family removal to Illinois, where he was reared to manhood and continued his studies in the common schools at such times as opportunity afforded. He was too young to realize his patriotic ambition in the earlier part of the Civil war, but in 1864, at the age of seventeen years, he enlisted in Company B, Thirty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which command he continued in service twenty-two months and with which he was present at Appomattox at the time of the surrender of General Lee, his service having thus continued until the close of the war. After receiving his honorable discharge Mr. Bierbower resumed his alliance with farm enterprise in Illinois and there he continued his residence until the spring of 1889, when he came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, and purchased two hundred and forty acres of unimproved land in section 4, Scoville township. Here he developed one of the fine farm estates of the county, his progressiveness having been shown in the erecting of excellent buildings and providing other improvements of the best type. Though he encountered his share of adverse conditions in the passing years, yet abundant success attended his vigorous activities in a general way and he had much of leadership in progressive farm enterprise in this section of the state. He remained on his farm until 1911, since which time he has lived retired from active business, in his attractive home at Giltner.

Mr. Bierbower was a charter member of the Giltner Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, with which he continued his affiliation until the membership so decreased as to cause lapse of the organization. In politics he is a stanch republican and as a citizen he has always been ready to aid movements and enterprises for the general good of the community. His wife, whose maiden name was Margaret Cavett, died in the year 1914, and of their twelve children all are living except Jacob, the firstborn. The names of the surviving children are: John L., Mary A., Martin, Leslie, William, Frank, Jonathan D., James C., Charles W., M. Ruth, and Margaret J., the wife of Hubert Cox, a Hamilton county farmer.

ANDREW G. PETERSON

The life story of Andrew G. Peterson is one of steady progression, intelligently directed. Realizing at the outset of his career the value of industry, perseverance and determination he has ever cultivated these qualities and step by step has advanced, each forward step bringing him a broader outlook and wider opportunity. For many years he was identified with mercantile pursuits, but is now living retired in Aurora, enjoying in well earned rest the fruits of his former toils. He belongs to that class of substantial citizens which Sweden has furnished to Hamilton county and who have been so potent a force in the development and progress of this section of the state. His birth occurred in Sweden, November 23, 1847, his parents being Peter and Anna Marie (Rosengren) Anderson, who spent their entire lives

in that country, where the father successfully followed farming and became the owner of considerable land. They were members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Peterson served as one of the church officials, acting as a deacon and in other capacities. He and his wife had ten children, seven of whom are living, but only two are now residents of Hamilton county: Andrew C.; and Iner E., who is engaged in merchandising in Aurora.

Andrew G. Peterson pursued his education in the public schools of his native country and was reared on a farm in Sweden, where he spent the period of his minority. On reaching the age of twenty-one years he determined to try his fortunes in the new world and crossing the Atlantic became a resident of Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1868. He was empty handed when he arrived in the United States, but he possessed courage and firm purpose and these qualities stood him in stead of capital. He started to earn his living as a day laborer in Iowa and later secured a position as engine wiper for a short time on the Burlington Railroad. Steadily he worked his way upward, becoming first a fireman and later an engineer. He was in the railroad service at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, and continued his railroad work until 1879, when he came to Aurora and with the capital which he had saved through his industry and economy established a small clothing and shoe store in this city. In the meantime, during his railroad work, he took an engine from Omaha to Lincoln in the fastest time ever made by any train over that road—a mile a minute. This was in 1894.

With his removal to Aurora Mr. Peterson instituted a new chapter in his life history. He was entirely without mercantile experience and knew practically nothing of the methods of conducting commercial enterprise. However, good, practical common sense guided him in everything and honorable dealings and an earnest desire to please his patrons soon brought to him a large number of customers. He increased his stock and it was not long before his business was a good paying proposition. He was also the owner of a ranch in Hitchcock county, on which he had two hundred and fifty head of cattle and this investment was also the result of savings earned while working on the railroad.

On the 19th of September, 1882, Mr. Peterson was married to Miss Carrie M. Kendall, a native of DeKalb, Illinois, who was reared in Beloit, Wisconsin, where she was educated. She is a daughter of Charles Kendall, an insurance man, who has filled the office of police judge and justice of the peace. By her marriage she became the mother of two children: Harry A., who is a graduate of the Aurora high school and of the Shattuck Military Academy of Faribault, Minnesota, there winning a certificate of first lieutenant. He is now on a prune ranch at Healdsburg, California; Nellie K. is a graduate of the high school and also of the St. Mary's Hall, Faribault, Minnesota, and she did post-graduate work in the State University. For some time she assisted her father in the store while he was actively engaged in merchandising. With America's entrance into the World war she volunteered as a canteen worker and was in France and Germany for fifteen months. She was one of the first women to go from Nebraska and did most valuable service for her country in this connection. Mrs. Peterson is prominent in the social and club circles of Aurora and the state, has been president of the Nineteenth Century Club, president of the State Federation of Clubs and state treasurer of the P. E. O. sisterhood. She has likewise been president of the state organization

of that sisterhood of college bred women for two years and was appointed by the supreme president as chairman to revise the edict of the order. After she had revised the edict she was made supreme president. She was appointed by a board as chairman of the endowment fund to invest the money made by the P. E. O. sisterhood so that their funds would be safe and in this she was associated with Mrs. Mary Garret Hay of New York and Mrs. Homer Miller of Des Moines, Iowa. She is a director of the general Supreme Order Federated Clubs of Nebraska. She was also elected vice president of the State Federation of Clubs and later was chosen to the presidency of that organization. Recognition of her ability has come to her from those in authority in the state, for she was appointed by Governor McKelvie on the board of control, being the first woman to serve in this position. Mrs. Peterson was state chairman of the Woman's Committee of the Nebraska Liberty Loan Campaign during the World war.

Mr. Peterson is well known in Masonic circles, having taken the degrees of both York and Scottish Rites and he is also a noble of the Mystic Shrine. He has traveled extensively and has crossed the ocean a number of times with his family, visiting all the principal places of modern and historic interest in Europe and on each occasion his visit extended over from four to ten months. His trips would total up to nineteen or twenty times. His last trip was made to South America during President Wilson's second administration. He was in Washington at the time of the inauguration and then went to Cuba, to Kingston, Jamaica, Colon and the Panama Canal. From there he proceeded to South America, visiting many countries on the southern continent and returned by way of the Danish islands. He left home in September, 1913, and took a trip around the world, being gone three hundred and sixty days and arriving in Berlin on the first day of the war. He was forced to remain in the German capital eleven days before he could get out. He then sailed from Europe, glad to be away from the war stricken country and little dreaming that America would be involved in the great world conflict. In politics Mr. Peterson is a republican but has never aspired to office.

Although Mr. Peterson has retired from active connection with business affairs he is still financially interested in the store with which he has been identified since 1879. In 1889 he became associated with D. E. Thompson, Ed. Bignall and John Tidball in establishing the State Bank at Aurora which was capitalized for seventy-five thousand dollars. Mr. Peterson entered the bank as cashier, was afterward elected to the vice presidency and later was chosen president, continuing at the head of the institution until 1916, when he sold out. It was then that he practically retired from active management of business affairs, for in the same year he disposed of his interest in the Aurora lumber-yard and also of his interest in the Peterson Clothing Company of York. Thus he severed his connection with all business organizations save the Peterson Brothers Clothing Company of Aurora. He was one of the eight men that built the Terminal building at Lincoln. He is still interested in the Fairmont Creamery Company as a stockholder and is likewise a stockholder in the Omaha & Lincoln Street Railway Company. His property includes eight store buildings in Aurora and one or two buildings in Lincoln. All that he has had and enjoyed is attributable to his own efforts. Starting out in the business world empty handed he steadily worked his way upward through the wise utilization of his time and his opportunities. He has ever been recognized

as a man of well balanced capacities and powers and has occupied a central place on the stage of action almost from the time when his initial effort was made in the field of business. His labors have found culmination in the development not only of various business enterprises, but in the promotion of public welfare and public improvement. He has never allowed personal interests nor ambition to dwarf his public spirit or his activities. His is the record of a strenuous life—a record of a strong individuality, sure of itself, stable in purpose, quick in perception, swift in decision, energetic and persistent in action. Mastering the lessons of life day by day, his post-graduate work in the school of experience, his broad travel and receptive mind have placed him with men of learning and ability who have figured prominently in connection with the history of Aurora and the state for many years.

DANIEL S. WOODARD, M. D.

For thirty-nine years Dr. Daniel S. Woodard has been engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Hamilton county and since 1897 has been located in Aurora. He was born in Rappahannock county, Virginia, near Woodville, November 26, 1848, a son of James Madison and Frances (Driver) Woodard. The paternal grandfather was James Woodard of Irish descent, who married Miss Anna Young, a lady of Scotch lineage. They resided throughout their entire life in Virginia, Mr. Woodard passing away in 1872 at the notable old age of ninety-two years while his wife died in 1862. The maternal grandfather of Dr. Woodard was Daniel Driver who was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, but in early life removed to Virginia.

James Madison Woodard was born in Rappahannock county, Virginia, and in early manhood took up the profession of school teaching which he followed in connection with farming, operating his land through slave labor for he was the owner of a number of slaves. He wedded Frances Driver who was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, and who was a member of the Mennonite church. They became the parents of three children only two of whom are living: Daniel S. and James J., the latter an officer in the Reform School near Grafton, West Virginia.

Dr. Woodard was but five years of age at the time of his father's death and his mother passed away in 1866. He lived with her during the period of the Civil war and guarded the horses in order to keep them from falling into the hands of the soldiers. He obtained a country school education, attending the subscription schools of the neighborhood and in 1876 he began the study of medicine alone. In 1880 he went to St. Joseph, Missouri, and there entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons from which he was graduated on the 15th of March, 1882. For a short time he practiced in St. Joseph and then removed to Hampton, Nebraska, where he opened an office in 1882. Throughout the intervening period he has practiced in Hamilton county, save from November, 1919, until June, 1920, when he was practicing in Watsonville, California. He first came to Aurora in 1897 and in July of that year purchased the Northside Drug Store, having previously had experience in the drug business as owner of an interest in a store of that kind in Hampton. His Aurora store was destroyed by fire in 1898. In April, 1899, he

was appointed first assistant physician to the Hospital for the Insane at Hastings, Nebraska, and there served for two years. In June, 1902, in connection with his elder son, he established another drug store on the Northside in Aurora and while engaged in its conduct he received the appointment in 1908 of superintendent of the Hospital at Lincoln. During his term there his son sold the drug store in 1910. After his two years hospital service in Lincoln Dr. Woodard returned to Aurora and has here since been engaged in the practice of medicine. He is recognized as one of the ablest physicians of this section of the state, his skill and ability being demonstrated on countless occasions. In 1914 he once more became connected with the drug business by opening a store on the west side of the Square, but later disposed of this and is now concentrating his undivided time and attention upon his practice. He is a member of the Hamilton County Medical Society, the Nebraska State Medical Society and the American Medical Association and has taken a most active and helpful part in the proceedings of the State Medical Society for several years.

In 1868 Dr. Woodard was married to Miss Sarah Ann Casteel, who was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, January 16, 1851. To them have been born six children: Cora, who is the wife of George E. Lane, a coal and produce merchant of Salem, Massachusetts; Samuel F., a druggist located at Gannett, Idaho; John A., of Bozeman, Montana, who is devoting his time to educational work, being now principal of the Gallatin county high school; William A., a dentist at Long Beach, California; James M., who was graduated from the medical department of the University of Nebraska in 1907 and is now practicing with his father; and Dean S., a physician and surgeon of Watsonville, California, who was graduated from the St. Louis University School of Medicine in 1914.

Dr. Woodard and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and his political belief is that of the democratic party. He has twice represented his district in the state legislature, exercising his official prerogative in support of many beneficial progressive measures. He is chairman of the Democratic County Committee and is keenly interested in everything that has to do with the advancement of county and commonwealth. His cooperation can at all times be counted upon to further any measure for the general good and there is an almost countless legion who attest the worth and ability of Dr. Woodard both as a physician and as a citizen.

ALBERT L. DAWSON

Four different states of the Union have been associated with the life record of Albert L. Dawson, a representative farmer of Hamilton county, who was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, January 31, 1861. The following year marked the removal of his parents to Fort Wayne, Indiana, and in the year 1864 the family went to Douglas county, Illinois, where the son, Albert L. Dawson, was reared on the home farm and received the advantages of the public schools of the period. There he continued to be associated with his father in farm enterprise until he was twenty-two years of age and in the spring of 1884 he came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where his father had previously purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land



MR. AND MRS. ALBERT L. DAWSON

in Union precinct. On the land were erected a small house and barn and during the first five years of his residence here Albert L. Dawson kept bachelor's hall. He brought about the excellent development of the farm, upon which he erected good buildings and made other improvements and there he continued his activities as an agriculturist and stock raiser until the autumn of 1899, when he removed to Thomas county and established himself in the cattle business. There he conducted his successful enterprise on a large stock ranch until the fall of 1910, when he returned to Hamilton county and established his residence on his present farm, in section 17, Union precinct. Here he erected a commodious and modern house and other good buildings and in addition to owning this fine home farm of three hundred and twenty acres, he is now the owner of another farm of two hundred acres in the same township, this latter place being in charge of his son, Claude. Mr. Dawson has always been vital and progressive in his farm enterprise and thus has achieved substantial success, the while he has given much attention to the raising and feeding of cattle of the shorthorn type.

In September, 1888, Mr. Dawson was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Burley, and of this union have been born nine children: Roy is associated in the work and management of the home farm; Jessie died at the age of one year; Osceola continues a member of the home circle; Claude has active management of the second farm owned by his father; Ernest is now a resident of the state of Utah, as is also Percival; Ruth; Alberta remains with her parents; and Wilbur died at the age of eight years.

Mr. Dawson has not been self-centered but has shown marked loyalty and liberality in his civic attitude and has supported measures and enterprises that have tended to advance the communal welfare in general. His allegiance to the republican party is unswerving, he has served five years as township assessor of Union township and for many years has been a member of the school board of his district. While a resident of Thomas county he served two terms as county commissioner and was reelected for a third term but resigned the office before the completion of this term. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

C. M. FERREE

C. M. Ferree, engaged in the real estate, insurance and loan business, has through individual effort risen to a position of prominence in Edgar. Like many other prominent and successful men of Clay county, Mr. Ferree is a native of another state, his birth having occurred in Clermont county, Ohio, on the 6th of October, 1866. His parents were George W. and Mary E. (Robinson) Ferree, both natives of Clermont county, Ohio, where they resided until 1869, and then removed to Illinois. For ten years they made that state their home and the father engaged in teaching school, both there and in Ohio. In 1879, however, they determined to come west and later in that year located in Clay county, where the father purchased farm land whereon he built a three-room frame house. There the death of Mrs. Ferree occurred and George W. Ferree then removed to Edgar, where he passed away, an honored and respected citizen. Three children were born to that union, two of

whom are living: C. M., whose name initiates this review; and Ella, the wife of S. O. Lewis, a rancher at Gold Bar, Washington. Frank M., the other child, passed away in August, 1919. The family was reared in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church and for a number of years George W. Ferree was identified with the Masons. Many were the hardships endured but prompted by the laudable ambition to make the most of his opportunities, he allowed no obstacles to remain long in his path and advanced steadily step by step to success. Upon the outbreak of the Civil war Mr. Ferree enlisted in Company E, Fifty-seventh Ohio Regiment and participated in some of the most important battles of that conflict. He was wounded at the battle of Missionary Ridge and confined to the hospital for a short time.

C. M. Ferree received his education in the schools of Illinois and Nebraska. He engaged in farming with his father until he was seventeen years of age, when he came with him to Edgar and accepted a position as clerk in a general store. In the summer of 1894 he entered into the conduct of a mercantile store with his brother and continued in that connection until 1919, when they sold out the business. Six months later his brother died. C. M. Ferree is now doing an extensive business in real estate, insurance and loans in connection with C. C. Stout and he devotes his entire time to the development of these interests.

On the 14th of October, 1891, occurred the marriage of Mr. Ferree and Miss Margaret O. French, a native of Fayette county, Pennsylvania. Her parents removed to Nuckolls county, Nebraska, in 1880, and there Mrs. Ferree completed her education. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Ferree one daughter has been born: Edna M., who died one month later.

Mr. Ferree gives his political allegiance to the republican party and his religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church. Mrs. Ferree is a consistent member of the Christian church. He is a Knight Templar, Shriner and past master and for five years held chairs of the Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons. In addition to his business Mr. Ferree owns some fine land in Nuckolls county and maintains a great interest in the agricultural development of the state. Mr. Ferree has spent practically his entire life in Edgar and Clay counties and has seen the community progress and prosper. He is a self-made man, having won his present success by his own determined effort and his many friends entertain for him the warm regard that arises from a recognition of high personal worth and appreciation for loyalty and fidelity in public life.

JOSHUA WILSON

A well known man, highly respected throughout Clay county and for many years prominent in the agricultural circles of that county, is Joshua Wilson who is now a resident of the Soldiers' Home at Grand Island.

Joshua Wilson was born in Indiana and there received his education. He enlisted for service in the Civil war from that state and after serving about four years in the Union army received his discharge, returned to Illinois and obtained employment on various farms. In 1876 he came to Nebraska and settled in Clay county, making the journey as far as Hastings by rail. He worked on the railroad for some time, at the end of each week walking to his homestead of one hundred

and sixty acres which he had acquired upon coming to the county. His first dwelling on the land was a dugout of one room with a dirt floor and he also made a dugout barn. His land he broke himself with the aid of a team of oxen. Cornstalks furnished the greater part of his fuel, although he also gathered branches and reeds from along the creek banks. He put out an orchard and shade trees and set about to bring his land to a highly cultivated state. He suffered some loss as the result of grasshopper visitations and hailstorms, but as a man of great determination and energy he allowed no obstacle to remain long in his path. In 1905 Mr. Wilson decided to retire from active farm life and subsequently removed to Trumbull. He traded his one hundred and sixty acres of well improved Clay county land for some land in Kansas. Mr. Wilson is now residing in the Old Soldiers' Home at Grand Island and is much respected and loved by his former comrades in arms.

While residing in Indiana Mr. Wilson was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Sleeth, a native of Shelby county, that state, and she proved a fitting helpmeet for an honored husband. Her death occurred at the age of sixty-five years and came as a severe blow to her devoted family and friends. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson seven children were born: A. S., who is farming in Clay county; Scott, also farming in Clay county; Harry, who is engaged in farming in Logan county, Colorado; Maude, who is now the wife of Ed Labrie, a farmer of Fremont; Lola, who is married to James Prince, a prominent farmer of Colorado; Chandler, who is engaged in railroading at North Platte; and Benjamin, who is deceased.

Throughout his life Mr. Wilson has been a stanch supporter of the republican party, having firm faith in the principles of that party as factors in good government. His religious faith is of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was that of his wife, and he is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was always active in community affairs and could be counted upon to give his undivided support to any movement he deemed necessary to the moral development and general welfare of the vicinity. Mr. Wilson has held many school offices and served his fellowmen to the best of his ability while so connected.

CHARLES A. CARLSON

Charles A. Carlson is the owner and manager of the Aurora Republican, the oldest paper published in Hamilton county, it having been established in 1873. His identification with this paper dates from 1904 and he has been connected with the printing trade since the age of nineteen years, at which time he started out in the business world. He was born in Sweden, September 5, 1879, and is a son of S. A. and Christine (Johnson) Carlson, both of whom are natives of Sweden. They came to Lancaster county, Nebraska, in 1881, and the father purchased land on which he still lives, having transformed the place into a valuable and productive farm. His wife died on the old homestead in 1915. They were members of the Swedish Mission church with which Mr. Carlson is still identified and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. He is truly a self-made man and

deserves much credit for what he has accomplished. When he arrived in Lancaster county, Nebraska, he was entirely without capital and today is the owner of over two hundred acres of rich and valuable land, besides considerable personal property. To him and his wife were born thirteen children of whom eleven are living.

Charles A. Carlson, the second in order of birth in this family, was educated in the country schools of Lancaster county and was reared on the home farm with the usual experiences of the farm bred boy to the age of nineteen years, when wishing to try his fortune along some other line he turned his attention to the printing business, obtaining a position on the Lincoln Daily Post in 1898. He worked on that paper for two and a half years and then went to Omaha, Nebraska, where he was employed in different printing establishments for six months. He then joined with two others in establishing a job printing business in which he continued for a year and then sold out. Returning to Lincoln he entered the employ of the Woodruff Printing Company and State Journal, there remaining until 1904 when he removed to Aurora and began work on the Republican. He continued with that paper until the Advocate was started and with the new paper he remained for a year. He then joined Clark Perkins in purchasing the Republican and together they published the paper until January, 1920, when Mr. Carlson bought out the interests of his partner and is now owner and manager of the Aurora Republican, which has a circulation of sixteen hundred. He also has a large job printing business, this constituting an important branch, although he has been very successful also with the paper which he has made a most readable journal devoted to the dissemination of local and general news. When he first began work on the republican he received a wage of nine dollars per week but saved his money and eventually was able to acquire an interest in the paper and at length to become its owner.

In 1904 Mr. Carlson was married to Miss Carrie Johnson who was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, coming with her parents to Hampton, Nebraska, when two years of age, and they have become parents of five children: Edna, attending high school; Leora and Herbert in school; Lyle and Kenneth. The parents are members of the Congregational church and Mr. Carlson is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while his political allegiance is given to the republican party. He stands for progressiveness in all public affairs and is actuated by a spirit of enterprise and determination in all that he undertakes.

FRANCIS JOSEPH TALICH

Francis Joseph Talich, living on section 24, Deepwell township, Hamilton county, is there engaged in general farming which he carries on successfully, owing to his industry, perseverance and capable management. He came to Nebraska from Grant county, Wisconsin, where his birth occurred on the 12th of April, 1867. There he remained until thirteen years of age, when he removed to Iowa, where for a time he was engaged in herding cattle. He spent the summer there and then made his way to South Dakota, securing employment on a steamboat on the river, carrying supplies up the Missouri as far as navigation

would permit. The fall and winter were spent in that way, after which he worked on a cattle ranch in Montana, remaining in that state for more than two and a half years. About that time his parents removed to South Dakota, where they homesteaded and F. J. Talich also took up a homestead, proving up on his property. He had a sod house which he occupied for eight years, but produced only one crop in all that period. He passed through all of the hardships and privations of pioneer life. The early settlers burned hay and cow chips and Mr. Talich also hauled wood from the Missouri river a distance of eighteen miles. After eight years spent in that locality, however, he sold his property there and came to Hamilton county, where he rented land for a year. Here things took an upward turn for the better and he purchased an eighty acre farm, which he occupied and cultivated for a time and then sold. He next bought another eighty acre tract and in the summer of 1917 purchased the farm whereon he now resides, comprising two hundred acres. This he has in addition to the home place of one hundred and sixty acres and he owns altogether five hundred and twenty acres in three separate farms, all improved with excellent buildings. He carries on general agricultural pursuits and his industry and enterprise have been the basis of his constantly growing success.

On the 14th of February, 1892, Mr. Talich was married to Miss Christiana Martin, who was born in Grant county, Wisconsin. They have become parents of eight children, seven of whom are living, Raymond having died at the age of six months. Those who survive are John, Sylvia, Elmer, Francis, George, May and Myrtle. The parents are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Talich gives his political support to the democratic party. He has served as road overseer and for twenty years has been a member of the school board. His life has been an active and useful one and his own industry has constituted the foundation upon which he has built his success.

EZRA AYER

For thirty-six years Ezra Ayer has engaged in farming in Clay county, his home being on section 10, Eldorado township. He was born in Canada on the 26th of March, 1853, and at the age of two years removed with his parents to DeKalb county, Illinois. They resided there until 1855, when the father went to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he homesteaded and remained until 1857, when he returned to Illinois and located in Henderson county.

Ezra Ayer received his education in the country schools of Henderson county, Illinois, and there resided until 1870 when he went to Mills county, Iowa. For thirteen years he made that county his home and then for two years resided in Sarpy county, Nebraska. In 1885 he decided to come west with the result that he located in Clay county, Nebraska, where he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which land he is still residing. He immediately set about to improve the place and put it on a paying basis and he is now one of the most successful general farmers and stock raisers in the county.

In 1875 Mr. Ayer was united in marriage to Miss Mary J. Hay and they

have become parents of four children: Leonard E.; Gertrude; Geneva L.; and Blanche.

Throughout his entire life Mr. Ayer has been a stanch supporter of the republican party, having firm belief in the principles of that party as factors in good government. The religious faith of the family is that of the Christian church and they are prominent and active members of that congregation. Mr. Ayer has always taken a keen interest in the development and improvement of the community in which he has so long resided and as a stanch advocate of education he served as a member of the school board for twenty years. He has followed scientific methods in his farming and his success is the result of diligence and industry intelligently directed.

H. H. TURNER

H. H. Turner, an honored veteran of the Civil war, has been residing retired in Harvard since about 1902. He was born in Otsega county, New York, on the 3d of July, 1843, a son of Isaiah and Mary (Hoagg) Turner, both natives of the same county. In 1850 Mr. and Mrs. Turner removed to Byron, Illinois, where they resided until 1860, when they went to Iowa. The death of Mr. Turner occurred in the latter state. Throughout his entire life he had followed farming and at the time of his death owned two hundred and forty acres of fine land. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Turner: Mary, who is the wife of John Cherry and resides in Iowa; H. H., the subject of this review; T. E., a retired farmer residing at Harvard; Jane, who is the wife of Palaska Hughes, a miller of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and William, who is residing in Iowa. Mr. Turner gave his political allegiance to the republican party and was for many years tax assessor in Iowa. He was a stanch advocate of education and served as school director for many years. The grandfather of H. H. Turner was Ezra Turner, whose birth and death occurred in Otsego county, New York, where he was a well known and highly respected citizen.

H. H. Turner received his education in the public schools of New York and Iowa and in due time attended Beloit College in Wisconsin. In 1862 he entered the Union army from Iowa, joining Company H, Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served three years. He was in the Army of the Tennessee and participated in the battles of Pleasant Hill, Brice's Cross Roads, Spanish Fort, Blakely, as well as other battles and skirmishes. At the close of the war he returned to Iowa and engaged in farming, achieving a substantial amount of success. In 1870 he was appointed to take the census and had eight townships under his supervision. In 1878 he came to Clay county and bought eighty acres of land for which he paid cash. He built a frame house and some outbuildings on the land and there resided until about 1902, when he moved into Harvard. He is now living retired, enjoying the fruits of a life spent in diligence and industry.

Mr. Turner has been married twice. On returning to Iowa after the close of the Civil war he was wed on the 16th of April, 1871, to Miss Laura White-



MR. AND MRS. H. H. TURNER

nack, a native of Indiana and a daughter of Abraham Whitenack, who was an early settler in that state. Her father later removed to Iowa and in 1871 settled in Milford, Nebraska. Five children were born to the first marriage: Etha, who is the wife of Fred Clark and resides in Kansas; Walter, who is engaged in the apple business in the state of Washington; Alice, deceased; Albert, who is a painter of Ardmore, Oklahoma; and Maude, now the wife of Earl L. Seitsinger, a farmer of Washington state. Mrs. Turner's demise occurred on the 4th of June, 1891, and on the 4th of December, 1901, Mr. Turner was married to Miss Alice Bulson, a native of Victoria, Illinois, and a daughter of Frederick and Mary D. Bulson. Her father was born in Otsego county, New York, and her mother in Kentucky. They located in Illinois in 1847 and there they both passed away. Frederick Bulson served in the Mexican war one year and three months. Four children out of the family of eight born to Mr. and Mrs. Bulson are living. In 1886 Mrs. Turner came to Clay county, locating just east of Harvard, and lived with her sister for some time.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Turner the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the republican party and the principles for which it stands. His religious faith is that of the Congregational church and he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Turner has always taken an active interest in the development and improvement of the community and for many years was justice of the peace and a member of the school board. He has become well known in the agricultural circles of the county and his wife now owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres located six miles east of Harvard. Both Mr. and Mrs. Turner have many friends in the county and are readily conceded to be representative citizens.

ALVIN O. HARTQUEST

No man occupies a more enviable position in the financial and business circles of Aurora than Alvin O. Hartquest, vice president of the First Trust Company. His position is due not only to the success which he has achieved but also to the straightforward business policy which he has ever followed. He has won his success through constructive measures and his progressiveness has carried him into important relations. Mr. Hartquest is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in McHenry county, April 14, 1865, his parents being Abraham A. and Nettie (Page) Hartquest, both of whom were natives of Sweden. Coming to America in early life they were married in McHenry county in 1847. Mr. Hartquest purchased land and resided upon a farm in that state until he removed to Hamilton county, Nebraska, in April, 1883. He invested in land in South Platte township and resided thereon for a number of years. In April, 1891, he took up his abode in Lincoln, and retired from farming, with the purpose of spending his remaining days in the enjoyment of well earned rest, but death called him in September of that year. The mother afterwards lived with her daughter, until she, too, was called to her final home in August, 1896. They were consistent Christian people, holding membership in the Episcopal church and Mr. Hartquest gave his political allegiance

to the republican party. He was a self-made man, his prosperity being due entirely to his own efforts and his course illustrates what can be accomplished by perseverance, industry and unfaltering energy. To Mr. and Mrs. Hartquest were born nine children of whom five are living: Emma, the wife of Morton Kee, a retired farmer of Los Angeles, California, who is still the owner of land in Hamilton and Adams counties, Nebraska; Josie, the wife of Sumner Pingry, who is living retired at Crystal Lake, Illinois; Mrs. Hanna Warneke, residing in California; Alvin O.; and Otis F. who is engaged in the drug business in Aurora.

Alvin O. Hartquest pursued his education in the public schools of his native state and was reared to the occupation of farming, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He afterward engaged in the creamery business in Aurora and was active along that line for fifteen years, conducting his business systematically and progressively so that success crowned his labors. He then turned his attentions to the real estate business and afterward formed a partnership with J. B. Cunningham with whom he was associated until the latter's death, two years later. Mr. Hartquest then organized the First Trust Company of Aurora, of which he became vice president and general manager. He is thus the executive head of the business and under his guidance the patronage of the company has steadily increased, making the business one of the profitable concerns of Hamilton county and an important feature in financial circles. He is also one of the stockholders in the Farmers' State Bank of Aurora and has made considerable investments in land in Hamilton county.

In December, 1893, Mr. Hartquest was married to Miss Amelia Adamek, a native of Chicago and a daughter of Joseph Adamek who conducted a wagon and carriage shop at Algonquin, Illinois, for a number of years. Mr. and Mrs. Hartquest have become parents of three daughters: Erma, the wife of Floyd Eldridge who is with the Haney Company of Hastings, Nebraska; Lura, who attended the Wesleyan University at University Place, Nebraska; and Mary, who like her sisters is a graduate of the Aurora high school. Mrs. Hartquest is a member of the Episcopal church but the family attends the Congregational church. Mr. Hartquest is a Scottish Rite Mason and also a member of the Mystic Shrine. He likewise has membership with the Highlanders. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he has served as a member of the city council, exercising his official prerogative in support of all plans and measures for the general good. In fact his support can be counted upon to further any movement that has to do with the welfare and upbuilding of his adopted county and state. Men know that what he says he will do and that his enterprise is of a character which qualifies him for leadership in public affairs.

MICHAEL PRESSLER

Among the valuable and representative citizens that Germany has furnished Nebraska is Michael Pressler, prominent in the agricultural and political circles of Hamilton county. Mr. Pressler was born in Germany on the 4th of March, 1851, and in 1862 came with his parents to America.

Upon arriving in the United States Michael Pressler and his parents first settled in Sangamon county, Illinois, and there he received his education and grew to manhood. He worked on his father's farm until he was twenty years of age, when he engaged in the blacksmith business which he followed for nine months, or until his marriage which occurred on the 31st of December, 1874. He then rented some land and commenced farming in Illinois, achieving a gratifying amount of success in that occupation. In 1881, however, he determined to come west and in the latter part of that year arrived in Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he has since remained. He purchased eighty acres of land, on which he now resides, for six hundred dollars and set about to improve the place. He built a small frame house and otherwise improved the land and in 1898 bought an additional eighty acres, working both tracts. He engaged in general farming and soon became recognized as one of Hamilton county's most progressive and successful farmers. This land, which is located in section 32, Scoville township, is now under his supervision.

On the 31st of December, 1874, occurred the marriage of Mr. Pressler and Miss Catherine C. Horschler, a native of Illinois. To them four children have been born: George M., who is farming in Scoville township; John J., otherwise known as Jack Burns, a moving picture actor with headquarters in New York; William T., who died at the age of seventeen years as the result of having been kicked by a horse; and Walter, who is residing in Trumbull.

Politically Mr. Pressler is well known throughout the county as a stanch supporter of the republican party. For many years he has taken a prominent part in the political affairs of the community and has wielded much influence. He has attended many of the county and state conventions but has always refused to have his name put before any of the committees as a candidate for any public office. Fraternally Mr. Pressler is a Mason and is an exemplary member of the craft. He has been an honorary member of the Doniphan Lodge for thirty-six years, is a member of the Hasting's Consistory and Tehamah Temple of the Mystic Shrine. Mr. Pressler became a thirty-second degree Mason in 1902. Mrs. Pressler is a consistent member of the Catholic church. Mr. Pressler has served his fellowmen as assessor for a period of over twenty years and was justice of the peace for six years. Although a native of Germany he secured his citizenship papers as soon after arriving in this country as possible and no native born American in the county has more love or respect for this great nation than he.

AMOS CURTIS

In the passing of Amos Curtis on the 4th of April, 1917, Hamilton county lost a representative and pioneer citizen. He had spent the greater part of his life on his homestead in that county and had a large circle of friends who were deeply bereaved at his demise.

Amos Curtis was born in Monroe county, Ohio, May 14, 1846, and lived there for some years when he removed with his parents to Iowa. On the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in Company K, Forty-sixth Iowa Infantry, with which

he served for one hundred days. At the close of the war he returned to Iowa, locating at Lucas. There he remained until 1871 when he came to Nebraska by team and had but two dollars in his pocket when he arrived in Hamilton county. With this money he purchased some corn and meal. He homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres located one and a quarter miles east of Hampton and there put up a sod house and barn. This land was all prairie and he set about to break it himself. For seventeen years he "bached" it on his homestead. Mr. Curtis passed through all the pioneer hardships, losing crops during the droughts, the grasshopper plague and hailstorms, but ever a man of grim determination and energy each misfortune seemed but to spur him to greater effort. Game was very plentiful in the vicinity of his home and he killed many buffaloes, antelopes and some small game. It was not long before Mr. Curtis' land was brought to a highly cultivated state and he was recognized throughout the community as a progressive and successful agriculturist.

On the 15th of March, 1888, occurred the marriage of Mr. Curtis and Miss Rosa Forsythe, a native of MeLean county, Illinois. She came to Nebraska with her parents when but fourteen years of age. Nine children were born to their union: Elmer B.; Homer F.; William H., deceased; Louise, who has passed away; Lloyd C.; Sanford R.; and Ralph. Homer enlisted in the navy and served during the World war.

Throughout the greater part of his life Mr. Curtis lived on his homestead in Hamilton county and engaged in general farming. He made friends who appreciated his true personal worth and many sterling traits of character and they felt a great loss in his passing. He was a consistent member of the Methodist church, as is his wife, and a generous contributor to its charities. Mrs. Curtis is now in possession of the old homestead and makes her home in Hampton. Elmer is farming the old homestead.

A. H. TITMAN

A. H. Titman, living on section 20, Aurora township, Hamilton county, where he is actively and profitably engaged in farming, was born in New Jersey, January 15, 1865, and is a son of George and Martha (Hooey) Titman. In his youthful days he attended the country schools of his native state, having to walk three miles to school. He pursued his studies for about three months each year, attending through the winter seasons when his services were not needed in connection with the development of the home farm. He, however, worked in the fields during the period of his youth and also in the timber region.

In 1886 Mr. Titman left his native state in company with his parents and went to Iowa, being at that time about twenty-one years of age. He lived in Iowa for a year and in 1887 came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where his father rented land, both he and his wife continuing to make their home in this county until called to their final rest, the former passing away in 1893, at the age of sixty-eight years, while the mother survived until 1908 and was seventy-four years of age at the time of her demise.

A. H. Titman continued to aid his father in the devolpment and improvement of the home farm until he reached the age of thirty years and then began farming on his own account by buying land, living near Merna, Nebraska, for three years. He afterward became the owner of four hundred and forty acres but eventually sold that farm and purchased an equal amount near Marquette, Hamilton county. Afterward, however, he returned to the old farm, which he rented. He has improved his land and as the years have passed has won a place among the substantial and progressive farmers of this section of the state. On his farm he has built a large silo and has added other modern equipments in accordance with the progressive methods of farming at the present time. In addition to cultivating his fields he raises stock, making a specialty of pure blooded Poland China hogs and a good grade of other farm stock. He is now featuring the dairy business to a considerable extent and this is proving to him a profitable source of revenue.

Mr. Titman was married to Miss Lillian Hiatt and they have become parents of twelve children: Benjamin, Victor, Virgil, Edmond, Lela, Gladys, Donald, Lola, Francis, Lyle, William and Gerrell. The parents are members of the United Brethren church and Mr. Titman is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. He has served as treasurer of the school board and has always been an independent voter. He is interested in the Farmers' Elevator, in the Farmers' Union and in the Aurora Creamery. He has always preferred to give his attention to business affairs rather than to take active part in public life and by reason of his concetration of purpose, his diligence and determination he has become one of the prosperous and representative farmers of his adopted county.

FREDERICK EGGERICHS

Since 1908 Frederick Eggerichs has made his home in Trumbull, where he is recognized as a successful and representative citizen. For many years he was prominent in agricultural circles of Clay county and is now reaping the reward of his labors. A native of Germany, he was born in that country December 27, 1841, and there received his common school education. After putting his textbooks aside he hired out for farm work by the year and after twelve years in that connection managed to save one hundred dollars, enough to secure his passage to the United States. His highest earnings in Germany in one year totaled sixty-six dollars which he received for the twelfth year of his farm work. On arriving in the United States in 1868 he went to Illinois locating in Dixon where he secured work on a farm for which he received twenty dollars per month. In 1871 he bought a team and rented land in Lee county, Illinois, which he farmed for some time and later sold for a substantial sum. The following six years he spent in working for the railroad and in 1878 came to Clay county, Nebraska, and purchased eighty acres of land at five dollars per acre, with ten years to complete payment. In 1880 he removed his family to Clay county, they coming by train as far as Harvard. He built a dugout with one window and the family made this their home for four years. He underwent all of the pioneer hardships of those

early days, being "hailed" out in 1881 and 1882. He broke forty acres of this land the first year with the aid of the horse team he brought with him from Illinois and another which he purchased on two years' time. He later bought an additional tract of eighty acres and put out trees and an orchard, but the latter mostly died out during the years of 1893 and 1894. For four years he burned cornstalks for fuel and brought back branches from the banks of nearby streams. On this farm Mr. Eggerichs resided until 1908, when he retired and moved to Trumbull. His success in general farming and stock raising had made possible his retirement from active farm life and he is now enjoying the results of his early diligence and industry.

In May, 1868, in Germany, Mr. Eggerichs married Miss Mary Johnson and they left the following month for the United States. One child has been born to this union, Christ J., who is residing at home.

Mr. Eggerichs now rents the home place. He maintains an interest in the advances being made along agricultural lines and is ever ready to give his support to any movement he deems necessary in the improvement and development of the community. For some time he has served as road overseer. Both Mr. and Mrs. Eggerichs are consistent members of the Lutheran church and prominent in the social and charitable affairs of that organization. The son is a member of the same church.

JOSEPH C. GALLENTINE

Joseph C. Gallentine resides on a farm on section 12, Inland township, Clay county. He broke the sod on this place and has added all of the improvements planting an excellent orchard and erecting many buildings which make his farm a valuable property. Mr. Gallentine came to this state from Marshall county, West Virginia, where he was born November 10, 1848. He was there reared on a farm with the usual experiences of the boy who divides his time between the work of the fields and the acquirement of a district school education. At the age of sixteen years, however, he entered the army, joining Company A of the Seventh West Virginia Infantry in 1864. He participated in the battle of the Wilderness, also in the engagements of Smoky Hollow, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, Weldon Railroad and two of the charges on Petersburg. He was also present at the time of the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox and participated in the Grand Review to celebrate the Union victory. At Spotsylvania he was wounded in the right shoulder and received a gunshot wound in the right hand.

When the war was over Mr. Gallentine returned to his native state, where he continued to live for two years longer and then in 1867 went to Ohio, where he resided until 1873. That year witnessed his arrival in Clay county, Nebraska, then a pioneer district, in which he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres. There was a dugout on the place and he lived in it for fifteen years, after which he built a frame house twelve by sixteen feet. He also had a sod and straw barn and he dug a well on his land. Only ten acres of the place had been broken when he took possession of it, and Mr. Gallentine turned the sod on the remainder



JOSEPH C. GALLENTINE

of the farm with oxen and mule teams. He also planted trees and set out an orchard, but this died out. He has lived upon his place continuously since coming to Nebraska and the finely developed farm of the present bears little resemblance to the unimproved tract of land of which he took possession almost a half century ago. He is today the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of rich and valuable land, on which are two sets of farm buildings and all modern improvements. He now rents all of his land and the place brings to him a most substantial annual income.

Mr. Gallentine's father electioneered for Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and when Joseph Gallentine secured the right of franchise on attaining his majority he cast his first presidential vote for U. S. Grant, and has since been a stalwart advocate of the republican party. He proudly wears the little bronze button that proclaims him a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, being identified with the post at Hastings, and throughout the years since the Civil war he has been as true and loyal to his country and her interests as when he followed the nation's starry banner on the battle fields of the south and wore the blue uniform that proclaimed him a supporter of the Union cause.

FRANK JOHNSON SPENCER

Frank Johnson Spencer, who passed away in 1911, was a native of Sweden, and came alone to the United States when a youth of fifteen years, joining his brother at Walnut, Illinois. For a short time he remained with his brother and then accepted a position as foreman at a stone quarry at Joliet, Illinois, where subsequently he acquired an interest in the business and worked there to the time of his marriage. He was always actuated by a progressive spirit and made the best use of his time and opportunities to gain a start and develop his fortunes.

Mr. Spencer wedded Miss Anna Peterson, a native of Sweden, who came to America with her sister when twenty years of age, settling in Chicago and afterward removing to Joliet. To them were born three children: Albert H., who is living on a farm in Hamilton county, and whose birth occurred in this state; Alvin B., who lives on the farm with his brother, Albert; and Elmer Fred, who in 1920 was located in Perkins county, where he farmed six hundred and forty acres of land in connection with Oscar G. Anderson. He also conducted the Dean Theatre in York, Nebraska, for four months. He is a veteran of the World war, having entered the service on the 15th of August, 1918, being trained at Lincoln in the Signal Corps. He was in the State University as a member of the Junior class when he entered the service from which he received his discharge in 1919.

It was in the '70s that Mr. Spencer removed from Illinois to Nebraska and here purchased eighty acres of land from the railroad company. He built thereon a nice home and substantial outbuildings and as the years passed converted his place into a highly improved farm. He had made some money while in the stone quarry, so that he brought with him to this county capital sufficient to enable him to pay for his land, add improvements thereto and put some stock on his place. Later he extended the boundaries of his farm by the purchase of an additional tract of one

hundred and sixty acres and afterwards sold his original eighty acres, but at different periods continued to add to his land until at the time of his death he owned two hundred and forty acres. Year by year he tilled the soil keeping his fields under a high state of cultivation and also winning success through the careful management of his stock raising interests. He continued to reside on the farm until his demise in 1911, and was accounted one of the progressive farmers and representative citizens of his community.

In 1917 Mrs. Spencer removed to Aurora, where she built a pleasant home at No. 1318 Eleventh street. None of her sons are married and the younger one resides with his mother. He owns land in this county but leases it and is now giving his attention to the insurance business, selling life, accident and health insurance. He is connected with Kenneth Hillis in his business affairs and has been very successful in all that he has undertaken. He is a well read young man, ambitious, alert, energetic and progressive and judging from what he has already accomplished it would seem that his future career would be well worth watching. The name of Spencer has long been an honored one in Hamilton county, for during the years of his residence here Frank J. Spencer was a highly respected citizen and his sterling worth, thorough reliability and his progressiveness in business won him the respect and confidence of all who knew him.

WILLIAM McDANNEL

Since 1883 William McDannel has lived on his present excellent farm in Deepwell township, Hamilton county, but prior to this he had gained wide and varied experience as a pioneer of the western frontier country, having made his arrival in Nebraska in 1867, the year which marked the admission of the state to the Union.

Mr. McDannel was born in Deerfield, Warren county, Ohio, on the 4th of March, 1844, and there was reared on the home farm to the age of sixteen years, his educational advantages in the meanwhile having been those of the common schools. At the age noted he entered upon an apprenticeship to the trade of harnessmaker and his technical knowledge thus acquired enabled him to render to the government effective service in the period of the Civil war. He learned his trade in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio. As a skilled saddler he gave thirteen months of service in connection with the Union forces in the Civil war as brigade saddler having had charge of the saddles of four trains in the supply department, each of these trains consisting of twenty-five teams of mules, with six mules constituting a team. His service was in keeping the saddles and other harness equipment in condition and he received from the government seventy-five dollars a month and his board. After the close of the war Mr. McDannel continued to be associated with his father in the work and management of the home farm about two years. In the spring of 1867 he came to Omaha, Nebraska, all of the trip having been made by way of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and within a short time he was found busily engaged in driving a six-mule team for the government, hauling supplies to the army posts at Fort Laramie and Fort Reno. After about six months he found

employment in the operation of a pile-driver that was in use in connection with the building of bridges on the line of the Union Pacific Railroad, then in process of construction. He was thus identified with construction work about two years and had the distinction of witnessing the driving of the golden spike that marked the completion of the great transcontinental railroad. Thereafter Mr. McDannel assisted in supplying wood used in the construction of the army post at Camp Halleck, Nevada, in which state he next followed mining for a short time. He then went to Green River, Wyoming, and became wagon boss with a freighting outfit, his connection with overland freighting through the western wilds continuing for sixteen years and giving him many experiences in connection with frontier life.

In 1883 Mr. McDannel came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, and at the rate of sixteen dollars and seventy-five cents per acre, purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 14, Deepwell township, where he has continued his residence during the intervening period and where he has had his share of pioneer difficulties and losses, but substantial prosperity has now crowned his well ordered activities as an agriculturist and stock raiser. The little sod house and lean-to barn that were on the property when he purchased it long ago disappeared and in surveying the well kept farm and the modern buildings of the present day it is almost impossible to realize the change. Results have justified all labors and trials and Mr. McDannel takes pride in the fact that he was not denied a share in pioneer experiences in his home county, the development and progress of which he has not only viewed with satisfaction but also assisted in promoting through his individual service and activities as a citizen and farmer.

On November 24, 1887, Mr. McDannel was united in marriage to Miss Lucy Hilpert, and they have five children: Nettie is the wife of Niel DeVore and they reside in the state of Wyoming; Emma is the wife of Christopher Good, of Gillett, that state; Alexander remains on the home farm; and William and Frank are farmers in Whitney, Nebraska. Mr. McDannel is a democrat in politics, has served as township assessor two terms and has filled the offices of moderator and treasurer of the school board of his district for twelve years.

ELMER C. BERGESON

Elmer C. Bergeson, who is engaged in the real estate business and in auctioneering, was born seven miles southeast of Aurora, March 16, 1886, a son of B. O. Bergeson, mentioned elsewhere in this work. He attended the Aurora high school and also was a student in the Fremont Normal School for two terms. He then returned home and assisted his father in farming and also in auctioneering, thus gaining experience of great value to him in his later years. He began to cry sales when but eighteen years of age and has followed the auctioneering business ever since. In 1918 he also took up the real estate and insurance business in connection with F. L. McCarty and they have now won a liberal clientage and are doing important work in connection with the immigration business that promotes real estate sales.

On the 21st of March, 1906, Mr. Bergeson was married to Miss May Castle, a native of Hamilton county and a daughter of Frank Castle, one of the pioneer settlers here who resided in the county to the time of his death. Mr. and Mrs. Bergeson have become parents of eight children, two sons and six daughters: Alice, Nina, Francis, Boyd O., Elva, and Viola, all in school; Elmer Franklin and Maxine, who are not yet of school age.

The parents are members of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Bergeson belongs to the Masonic fraternity and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In politics he is a republican but is not an office seeker, preferring to devote his entire time to his varied and important business interests. He conducts the Mid West Realty Auction Company and has carried on a large auctioneering business, crying sales in many states of the Union. He has also developed an excellent clientage in his real estate and insurance work and is today one of the progressive business men of the county.

GEORGE H. MARVEL, M. D.

Dr. George H. Marvel, engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Hamilton county, opened his office in Aurora in 1905. He was born in Vermilion county, Illinois, June 26, 1873. His father, Thompson Marvel, is also a native of Illinois and was a son of James Marvel, one of the early settlers of that state. Thompson Marvel, having arrived at years of maturity, was married to Miss Margaret J. French, also a native of Illinois and a representative of one of the pioneer families of the state, her father being George French. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Marvel resided in Illinois until 1884 and then removed to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he purchased land upon which he resided for a number of years, carefully and successfully cultivating his fields. He still owns more than a section of land, together with business property. He was a very energetic man in his younger days and always led his sons in hard work. His industry, capability and determination were the salient features in the attainment of the success which now enables him to live retired. In 1905 he put aside the active work of the fields and removed to Giltner where he and his wife now make their home. They and all of their family are members of the Christian church and in politics Mr. Marvel has maintained rather an independent course. To him and his wife were born three sons and three daughters: James, who is a merchant of Giltner; George H., of this review; P. O., who is a practicing physician of Giltner; Irene, the wife of Claude Chapman, a merchant of Giltner; Maggie, the wife of Lemoyne J. Gallentine, of Ogden, Utah, who is a well-to-do business man and large landowner and rancher; and Della, who has charge of the Glass Block Beauty Parlor in Duluth, Minnesota.

George H. Marvel acquired a country school education and afterward attended the old Lincoln Normal University which he entered in 1898. Later he took special work in the State University and was graduated from the Lincoln Medical College in 1905. He also pursued a post-graduate course in the Illinois Medical College of Chicago and throughout his professional career has constantly broadened his knowledge and efficiency by wide reading and study as well as by broad experience.

He has always continued in general practice and has been located in Aurora since 1905.

In 1910 Dr. Marvel was married to Miss Bernice L. Weekly, a native of West Virginia and a daughter of William Weekly, who resided in Lincoln, Nebraska, for a number of years but is now living in California. While in Lincoln he engaged in business as a contractor. Dr. and Mrs. Marvel have had no children of their own but have reared two: Darlien, who is now the wife of Elgie C. Bute, a farmer of Hamilton county; and Claire Weekly, who is attending high school. Both Dr. and Mrs. Marvel are members of the Christian church and he belongs to the Masonic lodge and to the Knights of Pythias. In politics he is independent. He is the owner of eighty acres of irrigated land in Colorado and has stock in various enterprises but devotes the greater part of his time and attention to the practice of medicine and is a member of the Hamilton County and Nebraska State Medical Societies. He holds to high standards in his professional career and is at all times most conscientious in the performance of his professional duties.

JAMES READY

One of the prosperous and representative citizens who profited by his pioneer experiences in Hamilton county is James Ready, and though he encountered severe reverses, owing to conditions that brought similar trouble to many other pioneers, his courage and self-reliance continued stanch under disaster as well as success and his appreciation of and loyalty to Nebraska is unstinted at the present time.

Mr. Ready, who now resides at Stockham, was born in Jackson county, Ohio, June 6, 1849, and is a son of James and Catherine (Tope) Ready, the former born in Virginia and the latter in Ohio. The father gave virtually his entire active life to farm enterprise and resided for a number of years in Illinois, though both he and his wife died in Ohio. James Ready, the subject of this review, is indebted to the district schools of Illinois for his youthful education and there he gained early fellowship with the work of the home farm. He remained with his parents until he attained his majority and thereafter was employed at farm work and the draining and tiling of swamp land in Illinois, in which state he continued his residence until 1880, when he came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, and purchased eighty acres of railroad land, to which he later added a second tract of equal area, this also being railroad land and fifteen acres of the soil having been broken when it came into his possession. A rude board shanty provided the first dwelling on the farm, the roof boards being bent over to give drainage during rainfalls. Mr. Ready earnestly applied himself to the breaking, cultivating and general improving of his land, but the reverses which attended him by loss of crops in the drought years of 1893 and 1894 compelled him to sacrifice his land holdings. He thereafter farmed for a time in Clay county and upon his return to Hamilton county he turned his attention to the blacksmith trade and wagon repairing, from which he later turned to identify himself with the lumber business, in connection with which he has been employed at Stockton for about

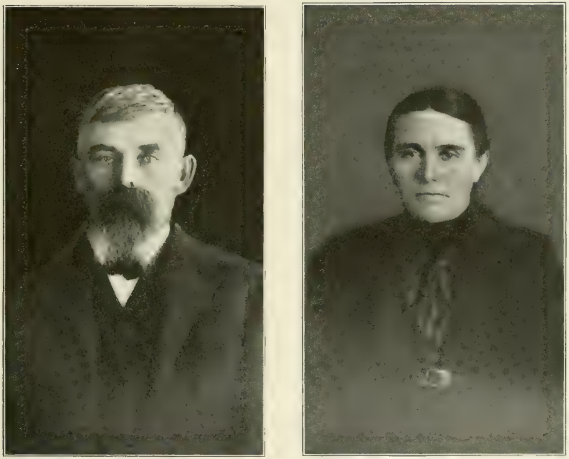
twelve years. He is an independent voter in political lines and his wife is a zealous member of the Presbyterian church at Stockham.

In Hamilton county was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Ready to Miss Anna Van Duesen, a representative of a well known pioneer family of which adequate mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Ready have three children: Laura is the wife of James Beat, Jr., a farmer of Hamilton county; May is the wife of Gardner P. Housel, also a farmer of this county; and Earl resides at Seward, judicial center of Seward county.

JOHN A. SHAFER

Among those who have proved specially resourceful and energetic in connection with the furtherance of farm industry in Hamilton county a place of no minor distinction it to be accorded to John A. Shafer, who is one of the sterling pioneers of the county and who here faced the adverse conditions and manifold perplexities of the early days, who has never faltered in his faith in the country and who has here realized substantial success with the passing years, as is attested by his ownership of a well improved and valuable farm of six hundred and thirty-eight acres, his homestead place being situated in section 11, Scoville precinct, with the village of Giltner as his post office.

Mr. Shafer was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, on the 28th of July, 1851. His father, the late Nicholas Shafer, established his residence in Wisconsin as a pioneer of the year 1848, first working in lead mines and later becoming a farmer in Grant county. John A. Shafer was reared on the small farm of his father and while he attended the pioneer district schools when opportunity offered, the broader education which is his has been gained in the school of practical experience. As a youth he began working in a sawmill and for three years continued his association with lumbering operations in the forests of his native state. Thereafter he was for some time employed in a flour mill and was an ambitious young man of twenty-seven years when he initiated his pioneer experience in Hamilton county, Nebraska. In Wisconsin he purchased two yoke of oxen and with these plodding animals and a wagon he transported his small stock of household effects to Nebraska, the journey having been one of several weeks' duration. Upon his arrival he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of railroad land, at the rate of five dollars per acre, and it is this original tract which still represents his home. Here he began breaking the raw prairie sod and making his land available for cultivation, his ox teams coming into requisition in this preliminary work. A little sod house of one room was the first habitation on the new farm and in supplying the home larder Mr. Shafer drew liberally from the many prairie chickens and wild geese and ducks that were here in evidence in the early days. His earnest labors were virtually set at naught in the lean years of drought, and in 1881 a superabundance of rain wrought almost equal disaster to the growing crops. He did not escape the further adversity incurred in the visitation of grasshoppers, but with faith and confidence he persisted in his work, with the result that the hardships paled into insignificance in comparison with his increasing prosperity, shown today in his



MR. AND MRS. JOHN A. SHAFER

ownership of a large and valuable farm property, upon which he has erected modern buildings and made other excellent improvements. He planted a grove of trees on his original farm but this died out, as did also the second which he planted. His characteristic determination not to be baffled by failure was shown in his planting of a third grove and this has reached vigorous maturity. Mr. Shafer has brought to bear progressive policies in all departments of his farm enterprise and in the raising of live stock has given special attention to the raising of hogs.

The maiden name of Mr. Shafer's wife was Caroline Goodweiler and she proved his faithful and valued helpmeet in the pioneer experiences they shared in Nebraska, where the supreme loss and bereavement of his life came when this loved companion was summoned to eternal rest in the year of 1913. They became the parents of nine children: Clara remains at home; Otto L. is a successful farmer in Scoville precinct; May is the wife of Albert G. Rupp, and they reside in the state of North Dakota; Gertrude is at home; Paul resides in the village of Giltner, this county; Albert met a tragic death in 1907, having fallen from a corncrib and broken his neck; Frank is associated with the activities of the home farm; Margaret is a successful teacher in the rural schools of Hamilton county; and Josephine is the youngest member of the home circle.

Mr. Shafer has been loyal in supporting enterprises which have tended to conserve the community welfare and has served nearly thirty years as director of his school district. He and his family are communicants of the Catholic church and his political allegiance is given to the republican party in a national way, but he is liberal in his views locally.

EDWARD P. GRIESS

Since 1914 Edward P. Griess has served as postmaster of Sutton. He is a native son of Clay county, having been born six miles north of Sutton on the 30th of June, 1879, a son of Peter H. and Sophia (Grosshans) Griess, further mention of whom is made in a sketch of H. C. Griess to be found on another page of this work.

Edward P. Griess is indebted to the schools of Sutton for his education and there started out into the business world as extra helper at the depot, for the wage of fifteen dollars per month. His father had suffered a severe financial loss and it was because of this misfortune that Mr. Griess was thrown upon his own resources at such an early age. His next occupation was that of clerk in a drug store in which connection he remained for one and one-half years and he then became a clerk in the drug store of Carl Spielman in Sutton. Subsequently he removed to Eldorado, Nebraska, and there engaged in the general mercantile business, remaining in that connection for a period of one year and then returned to Sutton. He met with an accident there which resulted in a broken foot and invalided him for a year. When he was again able to get around he became a bookkeeper for his brother in the Union State Bank at Harvard and held that position until 1914, when he was appointed postmaster of Sutton.

On the 10th of March, 1903, Mr. Griess was married to Miss Frances Laura Krieg, a native of Geneva, Nebraska, and a daughter of an old homesteader in Fillmore county. Two children have been born to their union: Florence M., who is sixteen years of age and is attending school; and Robert Edward, nine years of age.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Griess the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party, being a firm believer in the principles of that party as factors in good government. The religious faith of the family is that of the Congregational church and fraternally Mr. Griess is a member of the Royal Highlanders. He is recognized throughout the community as a representative citizen and devotes his entire time to his duties as postmaster.

GEORGE L. BURR

George L. Burr, president of the Burr Publishing Company, is well known in journalistic circles in Nebraska and since 1890 has been owner and editor of the Hamilton County Register. This, however, does not constitute his actual experience in the newspaper field, for he had previously owned and edited other papers, bringing him a wide acquaintance in this character throughout the state. A native of Iowa, he was born in Mt. Pleasant, July 12, 1859, a son of Edwin M. and Margaret Jeanette (Chandler) Burr, both of whom were natives of Ohio, the former born in 1836 and the latter in 1837. They had a family of four children, of whom George L. Burr is the eldest. He was a lad of but six years when in 1865 the family removed to Missouri, and in 1872 went to Kansas. The father was an attorney, devoting his life to law practice with creditable success. During the Civil war he served for three years and eight months with the Third Ohio Cavalry.

George L. Burr pursued his education in the high school at Keytesville, Missouri, and in normal schools of western Kansas, and then took up the profession of teaching, which he followed in Kansas for six years, becoming superintendent of schools at Gaylord and Smith Center, Kansas. Later, however, he turned his attention to newspaper interests and became owner and editor of the Smith County Record, published in Smith Center, Kansas. Removing to Riverton, Nebraska, he there published the Enterprise and afterward the Lawrence Locomotive of Lawrence, Nebraska. He afterward became editor and owner of the Curtis-Courier, the Stratton Herald, Bloomington Echo and the Hamilton County Register, of Nebraska publication. He was likewise owner of the Blue Hill Winner and Blue Hill Times before removing to Aurora in 1890. In that year he became owner of the Hamilton County Register, which he has since published and of which he has always been editor. The paper has an excellent circulation, making a good advertising medium. Its editorials are clear and concise and are widely read. While Mr. Burr was originally a republican, he later became independent in politics and since 1900 has published the Register as an independent paper. For six years he filled the office of secretary to Congressman W. L. Stark, but since 1900 has devoted his attention exclusively to newspaper

work, his only political activity being the discussion of vital questions and issues through the columns of his paper.

On the 12th of July, 1880, Mr. Burr was married to Miss Hattie S. Bonnette of Kansas, and they have become parents of four sons, Albert L., Fred, George L., and Edwin M. The first named now conducts the Register. The second son is vice president and general manager of the Giltner State Bank. George L. is a graduate of Nebraska State University and his younger brother also completed a course there. They are now engaged in the publication of the Alliance Herald of Alliance, Nebraska, which they own and edit. Both were soldiers of the late war, George L. serving in the navy, while Edwin M. became captain of Company C, Three Hundred and Thirteenth Ammunition Train, Eighty-eighth Division.

Mr. Burr is identified fraternally with the Woodmen and Highlanders and both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and they enjoy the regard of all who know them.

J. H. ELLER

J. H. Eller is not only a leading merchant of Clay Center but is actively connected with commercial pursuits in various towns of Nebraska and a spirit of enterprise and progress has not only brought to him substantial success but has made him a factor in the upbuilding and progress of the various localities in which his interests are located. The recognition of his service as an element in the advancement of the state makes it imperative that his life history be given in this volume. He was born in Wapello county, Iowa, August 27, 1861, a son of Harvey and Mary C. (Vannoy) Eller, both of whom were natives of North Carolina, where they were reared and married, removing to Iowa in 1852. The father purchased a farm there and both remained residents of the Hawkeye state until called to their final rest. They had a family of fifteen children, of whom ten are living.

J. H. Eller, who was the twelfth in order of birth and is the only one now in Clay county, received his early educational training in the district schools of Iowa and spent his youth on the home farm, his experiences being those that usually fall to the farm bred boy. He arrived in Clay Center in 1883, when a young man of about twenty-two years. His financial resources were very limited at that time and during the first year of his residence here he rented land. During the following year, 1884, he engaged in the hardware business as partner in a store and they likewise handled agricultural implements and farm machinery on commission. Mr. Eller also owned a team and did some hauling. As the years passed he made some progress, ever improving the opportunities that came his way, and in 1894 he embarked in the grocery business, although borrowing seven hundred dollars to make the venture. The new undertaking prospered and he later extended the scope of his business by establishing other departments until he now has a large double store building full of general merchandise of all kinds. He is likewise associated with others in the ownership of a store at Geneva, at Exeter, at Friend and at Beaver Crossing, Nebraska, the business interests being carried on under the

name of J. H. Eller & Company. Each of these stores is under the direction of a manager and Mr. Eller himself manages the business at Clay Center. He has one of the largest stocks of merchandise carried in the county and his Clay Center store would be a credit to a city of much larger size. Enterprise, diligence, close application and indefatigable energy have been the salient features in his growing success.

In 1888 Mr. Eller was married to Miss Bertha Athey, a native of Missouri, while her parents, Martin V. and Mary (Bailey) Athey, were both born in Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Eller were born five children: Merle, who married C. Rollins, who is in business with Mr. Eller; Mabel, the wife of J. G. Jessup, who makes his home in California and is a landowner of Kansas, but is filling the position of rural mail carrier on the Pacific coast; Florence, the wife of R. E. Cowan, a real estate and insurance agent at Lincoln, Nebraska; Francis, who is attending business college in Lincoln; and Raymond, who is in the aviation department of the regular army at San Antonio, Texas. Mrs. Eller passed away January 25, 1914, in the faith of the Congregational church, of which she was a consistent member. Her many sterling qualities won her the love and friendship of all with whom she came into contact. Mr. Eller also belongs to the Congregational church and fraternally is a Mason, having served for three terms as master of his lodge. He is likewise a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, as was Mrs. Eller, and his daughters also belong. Politically Mr. Eller is a republican and has served on the town board and on the school board, being secretary of the latter and chairman of the town board. He is interested in all that pertains to public progress and cooperates in all movements for the benefit of the community and the upbuilding of the state. Energy and enterprise have at all times characterized his business career and he is today one of the successful men of Clay county, but the most envious cannot grudge him his success, so worthily has it been won and so wisely used.

LEWIS H. HANSEN

Since 1882 Lewis H. Hansen has engaged in general farming, stock raising and feeding in Hamilton county, Nebraska. He has achieved a substantial amount of success along this line and is regarded as one of the representative agriculturists of the community, his farm being in section 30, Valley township.

A native of Denmark, his birth occurred in that country, November 25, 1853, and at an early age, in 1869, he with his father and three brothers and two sisters, came to the United States. One brother, Hans, is in Aurora and a sister, Minnie, is residing in Chicago. Upon arriving in this country Mr. Hansen and his father settled in Illinois, one hundred miles south of Chicago in Vermilion county, and there the father purchased eighty acres of land and started farming. Many hardships had to be endured in order to get the land upon a paying basis and as the father was too old to do much work almost the entire responsibility fell upon the shoulders of Lewis H. Hansen. For thirteen years they resided in Illinois, in that time achieving a substantial amount of success, but in 1882 they removed to Nebraska, bringing with them a car of mixed stock and some tools. Before remov-

ing to this state they disposed of their eighty acres of Illinois land and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Hamilton county. The only improvements on this land were two small houses, one of sod and the other, frame. Rats were the greatest nuisance and the sod house while it was a very good dwelling in fair weather, proved to be a veritable sieve during the rainy seasons. In 1883 Mr. Hansen built a new home which was modern and up to date in every way for that period and made this his home until 1912, when he erected his present residence, one of the finest in this section of the county. The father of Mr. Hansen made his home with him until May, 1894, when his death occurred at the age of seventy-seven years. Mr. Hansen's farm now consists of eight hundred acres, on which stand four sets of buildings. He has always engaged in general farming, stock raising and feeding and along these lines has won a gratifying amount of success.

On the 29th of May, 1882, occurred the marriage of Mr. Hansen and Miss Maria Frank, a daughter of Andrew and Anne Frank. She removed to Nebraska with her parents in the same year that her husband arrived here. To them ten children have been born: Bernhart; Thyra; Walter; Agnes; Harold; George; Reynor; Warner; Yrssa; and Herluf. Herluf and Harold saw active service during the World war, going across to France. George was also in the service, but did not go overseas.

Mr. Hansen is a stanch supporter of the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. His religious faith is that of the Danish Lutheran church and he was one of the men influential in the building of that church at Kronborg. As a prominent farmer and the father of a large family Mr. Hansen has always taken an active part in the civic affairs of the community, his support always being relied upon to further any movement for the improvement and development of the county. He was a member of the school board for a few years. The success which Mr. Hansen now enjoys is the result of his own diligence and industry and he still prefers to devote his time and attention to the improvement and cultivation of his land. His prosperity has been rapid and sure and founded upon an expert knowledge of the value of land and the methods of its scientific cultivation.

DAVID E. SEIVER

David E. Seiver, who passed away on the 6th of December, 1917, at the age of sixty-seven years, had long been a valued and honored resident of Hamilton county. While a progressive, enterprising and successful business man, the attainment of prosperity never constituted the whole end and aim of his life. On the contrary he recognized and fully met his duties and obligations in every relation and was keenly interested in the educational and moral development of the community in which he made his home, his labors and influence proving a potent force for good in Hamilton county.

Mr. Seiver was born in New Hampden, Highland county, Virginia, in 1850, a son of James and Martha (Sullenberger) Seiver, who were also natives of the

Old Dominion. The father was a successful tailor and prominent citizen of Highland county, and both he and his wife passed away in the state of their nativity. To them were born nine children, five daughters and four sons: John, Maggie and Susan, all of whom have passed away; Samuel, who is residing in Salina, Kansas; Mrs. Lucy Rexroad, who makes her home in Oklahoma; Mrs. Emma J. Mauzy, of New Hampden, Virginia; Mrs. Abbie Brown, of San Bernardino, California; James, who located in Plattsmouth for some time, but is now living in Perkins county; and David E.

The last named acquired his education in the common schools of Virginia and after his marriage, in 1867, went to Kansas, where he acquired a homestead of eighty acres. He had sod buildings on his place and when he took possession the land was unbroken and uncultivated. In 1880, after the death of his wife, he disposed of his homestead and came to Nebraska. During 1881 he cultivated land in the vicinity of Plattsmouth and afterward was associated with C. H. Parmele of Plattsmouth in the buying of grain and live stock. He afterward removed to Cedar Creek, where he continued in the same business until 1892, at which time he took up his abode in Marquette, Hamilton county, and there purchased land in partnership with Mr. Parmele and W. H. Newell. Their purchase consisted of thirteen hundred acres of ranch land three miles northwest of the town and the home place at the south edge of town, on which Mr. Seiver lived until his death, making his home on that place in order to be near a good school that his children might enjoy the advantages thereof. Although he raised and developed a high type of pure bred Hereford cattle, in which occupation he took much interest and pride, he was more concerned with the educational and moral development of his children than he was in raising cattle and making money. Mr. Seiver and his wife possessed a remarkable influence over their children and through their efforts and sacrifice all were enabled to secure a high school and college education and are now active members of the Methodist church, taking a helpful interest in progressive movements of their community and county.

Mr. Seiver was twice married. In Virginia, in 1867, he wedded Clara Fleisher, whose death occurred in 1880 and who was the mother of three children: Gertrude, who passed away in January, 1920; Guy, now a plumber of Broken Bow, Nebraska; and Claudia, who is the wife of G. W. Farr, of Miles City, Montana, where he is successfully engaged in the practice of law. In 1883 Mr. Seiver was united in marriage to Miss Anna Louisa Shryock, a native of Stephens City, Virginia, born October 1, 1853, and a daughter of Thomas William and Rachel A. (Meyers) Shryock. Mrs. Seiver completed her education in the Plattsmouth high school and afterward successfully engaged in teaching prior to her marriage. It was on the 15th of March, 1883, at Weeping Water, Nebraska, that she became the wife of David E. Seiver and to them were born six children: Anna Kathryn, who is now the widow of Ira Shaneyfelt of Marquette; Thomas W., who married Florence V. Karr and is now engaged in farming in Hamilton county; Clara Louise, who is the wife of Dr. J. C. Malster, a physician of Stromsburg, Nebraska; William Shryock, who married Dora M. Johnson of North Loup, Nebraska, and is engaged in farming near Marquette; David Edwin, who married Velma Flower of Hebron, Nebraska, and is now cultivating the home place and also assisting on the ranch; and Bertie D., who lives at Marquette with the mother.

Throughout his entire life Mr. Seiver was a stanch supporter of the democratic party, in the activities of which he took a keen interest. Fraternally he was identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen and loyally at all times supported the beneficent purpose underlying these organizations. His religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mrs. Seiver is a most consistent and helpful member. The life record of David E. Seiver is one worthy of high commendation. Starting out empty-handed he steadily worked his way upward to a position of prominence in the county as the result of his diligence, perseverance and energy. Moreover, he stood loyally in support of all the plans and measures for the public good, his aid and influence being on the side of progress, reform, right and truth. Mrs. Seiver shared with him in all the high ideals which governed his life and is most highly esteemed in the community where she and her family reside.

BENJAMIN F. MAPES

Benjamin F. Mapes is now living in well earned retirement and prosperity in the village of Phillips, Hamilton county, a representative pioneer citizen who here contributed in generous measure to the early civic and industrial development of the county and who has ever stood an exponent of loyal and appreciative citizenship in the state of his adoption.

Mr. Mapes was born at St. Joseph, Illinois, in the year 1857, and is a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Swearingen) Mapes, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Illinois. Daniel Mapes was a child of two years when his parents became pioneer settlers in a timber and prairie district of Illinois, where his father reclaimed and developed a productive farm, both he and his wife having there passed the remainder of their lives. Daniel Mapes was reared and educated in Illinois and eventually became one of the substantial farmers and representative citizens of Champaign county, that state, where both he and his wife remained until the close of their lives. Of their children seven are living: John, a resident of Indiana; Henry, living retired at Phillips, Nebraska; Benjamin F., of this review, the next younger; Thomas, who lives in Illinois, as do also Samuel M. and Charles; and Ethel, who resides in the state of Indiana.

The district schools of his native state gave to Benjamin F. Mapes his youthful education and in the meantime he aided in the work of the home farm. He worked as a farm employe in Illinois for a number of years and it was his determined ambition to win for himself independence and definite prosperity that he decided to cast in his lot with the sturdy pioneers of Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he has not been denied a due reward and where he has prospered with the general advancement of this now favored section of the state.

In 1878, with team and wagon, Mr. Mapes left his native state of Illinois and set out on the 15th of September for Hamilton county, Nebraska. At Burlington, Iowa, he ferried across the Mississippi river and a ferry-boat at Nebraska City transferred him and his equipment across the Missouri river. He arrived in Hamilton county on the 30th of October and here leased eighty

acres of school land, on which he and his brother erected a small frame house as their pioneer habitation. The lumber for this building was hauled from Grand Island, as were also all provisions required in the new home, as there were no roads at that time and wild game being plentiful the somewhat irregular trips across the prairies were not without their attractive and interesting features. In the early days the brother assumed charge of development work on the land, while the subject of this sketch worked out as a farm hand in order to provide funds for continuing operations. With the passing years his success as a farmer increased and he was enabled to buy land from time to time until he became the owner of a well improved farm property of two hundred acres, which he still retains in his possession and which is one of the valuable landed estates of Phillips township. In addition to erecting good buildings on his homestead and bringing the place to a high standard along agricultural and live stock lines, Mr. Mapes further manifested his good judgment by planting and developing a large orchard, besides setting out other trees on the farm. He did not escape the hardships and reverses that marked the pioneer days and even as late as 1894 crops in this section failed. In 1910 the house on his farm was destroyed by fire, but it was soon replaced with the present modern dwelling that adorns the place. He remained on the farm in active supervision of its operations until March, 1920, when he removed to Phillips, where he and his wife have an attractive home and are enjoying the gracious rewards of former years of earnest toil and endeavor.

In 1885, in Hamilton county, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Mapes to Miss Louise Reinhard, who was born in the state of Wisconsin and she proved to him a true helpmeet in his progressive career as a farmer. Of their children the eldest is Annabelle, who is the wife of Charles Dettamore George of Phillips; Frank has the active management of his father's farm; Irvin is an expressman in the city of Omaha; Cora is the wife of August Katchkau, who conducts an automobile garage at Phillips; Mary, who became the wife of Otto Sharnow, is deceased; Clara is the wife of Frederick Shonenberg, a farmer in Hamilton county; Edward is a prosperous farmer near Grant, Perkins county, this state; Ethel is the wife of Dewey Channey of Hamilton county; and Lester is at home with his parents.

Mr. Mapes is aligned in the ranks of the democratic party, is affiliated with the Knights of the Maccabees and he and his wife are active members of the Presbyterian church in their home village.

JAMES CAMERON

The character of the late James Cameron was the positive expression of a strong and noble nature and he played well his part in all relations of life. Thus special interest attaches to his constructive career as one of the sterling pioneers of Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he lived and labored to goodly ends and where he died on the 5th of July, 1901, aged fifty-nine years, one month and twenty-eight days.

Mr. Cameron was born in Perthshire, Scotland, and there received his youthful education. He was seventeen years of age when he accompanied his parents on their



MR. AND MRS. JAMES CAMERON

immigration to the United States and his father, James Cameron, established the family home in Wisconsin, where he became the owner of a farm of eighty acres and proved successful as an agriculturist, though his vocation in Scotland had been that of cabinet-maker. He continued to reside in the Badger state until his death. His wife died in Scotland.

In Wisconsin James Cameron, of this review, early found employment at farm work and after his marriage in 1864 he engaged in independent operations on his father's old home farm. The maiden name of his wife was Ann Adie Cumming and she also was born in Scotland. She was but fourteen months old when her parents set sail for the United States, and nine weeks passed ere the old-time sailing vessel completed the voyage across the Atlantic, about the same period of time having been consumed by the Cameron family in making a similar voyage. The parents of Mrs. Cameron established their home on a pioneer farm in Wisconsin, where they passed the remainder of their lives.

In 1867 James Cameron and his young wife set forth from Wisconsin with team and covered wagon and made their way to Nebraska, which state was admitted to the Union in that year. They brought with them a cow and while ferrying across the Missouri river, at Nebraska City, this demure animal manifested her independence by jumping off the ferry-boat and swimming to the opposite shore in advance of the boat. The trip from Wisconsin to Nebraska was completed in one month and seven days and upon arrival in Hamilton county Mr. Cameron obtained a homestead of eighty acres, in what is Orville precinct. The wagon cover was the family habitation until it was possible to complete a pioneer dugout and after occupying this primitive dwelling three years Mr. Cameron built on his farm a log house having a dirt roof and dirt floor for the first four years, lumber having then been hauled from Lincoln to supply more fitting equipment in these particulars. In the early days Mr. Cameron obtained his mail from Camden, Seward county, and in view of the free mail delivery service in the rural districts of the same section at the present time, it is significant to recall that Mr. Cameron considered himself fortunate if he could obtain mail about twice a year in the early pioneer era. Camden was the nearest milling point, produce from the farm was hauled by team and wagon to Nebraska City, and Indians frequently traversed Hamilton county on their hunting trips, one visitation of this kind having resulted in the redskins appropriating all of the hosiery of the Camden family. Mr. Cameron killed many buffaloes, as well as deer and other wild game and thus did much to supply the family larder, his good wife drying portions of the meat for future use. After he began to prosper in his farm enterprise Mr. Cameron purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land and eventually became the owner of a fine farm property of four hundred acres, which he retained until his death and which he developed into a high state of productiveness. He planted forest trees around the home, eventually erected a substantial and commodious house and other good buildings and also developed an excellent orchard, the first one which he set out having failed to produce, as the trees died out after a devastating visitation of grasshoppers. In the great blizzard of 1873 the Cameron family was snowbound three days, though the home was considerably sheltered by trees along the river, which trees supplied the greater part of the winter fuel. Mr. Cameron lived to see his efforts rewarded with generous prosperity and he

remained on the old homestead until his death, his venerable widow being now a resident of the village of Stockham and one of the revered pioneer women of Hamilton county. She is an earnest member of the Presbyterian church, as was also her husband, and they were charter members of the first church of this denomination organized in Hamilton county, the organization having been effected in one of the pioneer dugout houses. Mr. Cameron was a man of superior mentality and strong convictions, was a Master Mason, and in politics was a stanch republican. Of the fourteen children ten survive the honored father: Thomas S., in the employ of the street railway company of Sioux City, Iowa; Jessie M., the wife of George Fralick of Whichita, Kansas; James E. and William H., who reside at Stockham, Hamilton county; George F., who has active charge of the old home farm; Robert A.; Mary E., the wife of David Rowe of Fremont, Nebraska; Annie Laura, the wife of Elmer Chorn of Boise, Idaho; Fred B., who resides at Sutton, Nebraska; and Walter, a farmer in York county, this state. Annie E. and Marian E. died young; and two children died in infancy.

NATHAN W. TITMAN

In the passing of Nathan W. Titman Aurora and Hamilton county lost a pioneer and representative citizen. A native of New Jersey, he was born in Sussex county in 1852, reared on a farm in that county and received his education in the country schools.

In 1878 Mr. Titman removed from New Jersey to Iowa where he obtained employment on farms and his wife assisted him in every way. She did the cooking and took care of the home of a neighbor farmer who was a bachelor. In the fall his wife helped him husk eighty acres of corn and from their labor Mr. Titman realized enough to purchase a team of colts, a wagon and a harness. In February, 1879, Mr. Titman with his wife and three children started overland in a covered wagon for Nebraska. The journey proved to be long and tedious, the weather was very cold and the muddy roads made the traveling very slow. Water was scarce, for that was one of the drought years and most of the wells were dry. They finally, however, reached Hamilton county and Mr. Titman rented a farm in Orville precinct that year. In the same summer he went further west and took up a homestead and timber claim in Red Willow county and went to work to dig wells. He lost two horses that year, one from a rattlesnake bite and the other from colic, and with but forty dollars to his name Mr. Titman purchased a wild pony and returned to his home in Orville precinct. Subsequently he traded the pony for an ox team and hauled his grain to Harvard, where he found a ready market. He rented land for some years and had a hard time. His wife proved to be a helpmeet in every sense of the word and it was with her cooperation that they were able to purchase eighty acres of railroad land at six dollars an acre. They put up a sod house on this land and were so successful in farming that they soon added an additional one hundred and sixty acres, making a total of two hundred and forty acres of land which he brought to a high state of cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Titman resided on the farm until 1905 when they removed to Aurora,

where he purchased five acres of ground and erected a fine home. His death occurred there on the 27th of July, 1907, and came as a severe shock to his many friends in the community. Mrs. Titman is still living and makes her home in Aurora, where she is a respected and prominent citizen.

To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Titman six children were born: Charles H., at home; Emma, who is the wife of Fred Eckerson; Sanford, whose death occurred at the age of thirty-three years; Mary, who was the wife of Thomas Milliken and passed away in 1919; George, who is residing in Garden county; and Orville W., living in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Throughout his entire life Mr. Titman was a democrat, having firm belief in the principles of that party as factors in good government. Mrs. Titman is also a stanch supporter of that party. Mr. Titman attended the United Brethren church and his widow is a member of that church. His fraternal affiliations were with the Woodmen. He was a member of the school board for years and was always active in any movement for the development and improvement of the community. The life of Mr. Titman was spent in diligence and industry. He was a self-made man in every sense of the word, for his success was due to his own efforts and to the cooperation of his wife. In his passing Aurora lost a prominent and representative citizen and he has left a void in the community that will be hard to fill.

A. C. EPPERSON

A. C. Epperson, engaged in law practice at Clay Center, where his ability ranks him with the leading attorneys, was born in McDonough county, Illinois, November 18, 1870, his parents being John L. and Sarah (Rine) Epperson, the former a native of Tippecanoe county, Indiana, while the latter was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania. In early life the father became a resident of Illinois and devoted his early manhood to teaching school. He afterward became a station agent and telegraph operator and devoted his time and energy to work of that character from 1870 until 1880. In the latter year he removed to Clay county, Nebraska, settling on a farm, but took up the practice of law when well advanced in years. He practiced at Fairfield and at Clay Center, and in 1888 was elected to the office of county attorney, filling that position for two years. At a subsequent period he was again elected and for a second term. Both he and his wife passed away in Clay county, where they were regarded as representative and valued citizens. They had a family of three children: Martha, the wife of George Gaumer, a retired farmer living in Scotts Bluff; Charles H., a prominent member of the bar at Fairfield; and A. C., of this review. Both parents were faithful members of the Christian church and Mr. Epperson also belonged to the Masonic fraternity, loyally following the teachings of the craft. His political allegiance was given to the republican party. At the time of the Civil war he joined Company L of the Seventh Illinois Cavalry, of which his brother, S. A. Epperson, was serving as captain and later was promoted to the rank of major. Mr. Epperson was with the army for more than a year and participated in the battle of Shiloh.

It is always interesting to know something of the ancestral record of an individual, for much is indicated concerning the qualities that are displayed in later generations. The paternal grandfather of A. C. Epperson was James H. Epperson, a native of Kentucky, who, removing to the west, resided in Clay county for a number of years and here passed away at the venerable age of eighty-seven, his death occurring on the 30th of September, 1898. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Epperson was Isaac Rine, a native of Pennsylvania, who went to Nebraska and finally took up his abode in Nuckolls county, where he departed this life. Previously, however, he had made his way westward and in the early '80s became a resident of Saline county.

A. C. Epperson was educated in the public schools and the law department of the State University and his life has been that of a busy and successful lawyer. For years he has now practiced law, devoting the greater part of his time to his professional duties, but has also become a director of the Citizens' Bank of Fairfield and is interested with Sydney W. Smith of Omaha in a large apple orchard in the state of Washington.

In February, 1891, Mr. Epperson was united in marriage to Miss Blanche Haylett, a native of Adams county, Iowa, and a daughter of Jacob and Mattie (Ruble) Haylett, natives of England and of Iowa, respectively. The father was a blacksmith and farmer and served in the navy during the Civil war. To Mr. and Mrs. Epperson have been born three children: Charles H., who is a graduate of the State University and now a law partner of his father; Mildred, the wife of Doctor Gartrell, a practicing osteopath of Clay Center, Nebraska; and Kathryn, the wife of Evan Jenkins, a merchant of White City, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Epperson belong to the Christian church and he has taken the degrees of the Masonic lodge and the fourteenth degree of the Scottish Rite. He served as master of his lodge in Clay Center and was grand master of the state in 1918-19. He likewise belongs to the Knights of Pythias. His political endorsement has always been given to the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and for eight years he served as county attorney of Clay county, and he was also a member of the supreme court commission of the state from 1906 until 1909. His has been a very active and useful life, one that is far-reaching and beneficial, for the results achieved are such as uphold the legal status of the community and further all that tends to higher standards in citizenship.

JASPER F. COLE, D. D. S.

Dr. Jasper F. Cole, successfully engaged in dental practice in Aurora, was born in Hamilton county, near this city, December 31, 1883, a son of Harvey and Nellie Jane (Mallory) Cole, both of whom were natives of Stephenson county, Illinois. In the acquirement of his education he passed through consecutive grades to the Aurora high school, from which he was graduated in 1903. He afterward attended the Doane College at Crete, Nebraska, for a year and then determining to make the practice of dentistry his life work, he spent two years in the dental college of the University of Iowa and was graduated from the University of Nebraska as a dental

surgeon in 1909. In the same year he opened an office in Aurora where he has since continued in practice. His office is supplied with the latest dental equipment and appliances and he displays marked skill and ingenuity in performing the multitudinous delicate duties of dental practice.

In 1906 Dr. Cole was married to Miss Ruth Erie Johnson, who was born at Crete, Nebraska, a daughter of Frank Johnson, a native of Iowa, who came to Crete and was a miller there for a number of years. To this marriage have been born three children: Maurice, thirteen years of age; Norman, aged nine; and Frank, five. Dr. Cole and his wife attend the Congregational church and he belongs to the Masonic fraternity, having taken the degrees of the Scottish Rite and the Mystic Shrine. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Rotary Club and of the latter is now secretary. In politics he is a republican and in 1920 was an elector from the fourth congressional district. He is much interested in politics and recognizes the obligations and responsibilities as well as the opportunities and privileges of citzenship. He manifests a spirit of progress in all that he does and year by year is making advance in professional circles, while throughout the period of his connection with Aurora he has been accorded a liberal patronage.

EDWIN CUTTS

The present efficient and popular postmaster of the village of Giltner, Hamilton county, Edwin Cutts, has been a resident of this county since he was a lad of twelve years and is a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of this now favored sections of Nebraska. He was born at Castle Rock, Grant county, Wisconsin, on the 5th of March, 1864, and is a son of George and Mary E. (Campbell) Cutts. He acquired his rudimentary education in the schools of the Badger state and was twelve years old when his parents settled in Hamilton county, Nebraska, in the autumn of 1876. His father purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 34, Hamilton township, forty acres of the tract having been broken and a dugout house having been constructed on the place. It was on this pioneer farm, of which he is now the owner, that the postmaster of Giltner was reared to manhood and in the meanwhile he profited fully by the advantages afforded in the rural schools of the locality. As a young man he assumed active management of the old home farm and after the death of his father purchased the property, which is now one of the admirably improved farms of the county, and his land holdings comprise three hundred and twenty acres. Aside from his official duties he finds much satisfaction in giving a general supervision to his farm interests and in doing his part in maintaining the high agricultural and live stock standards of his home county. His father was one of the honored pioneer citizens of the county at the time of his death, when about eight-four years of age and the mother passed away at the age of eighty-one years. Of the children one half brother and a half sister are living.

Edwin Cutts remained on his farm until 1913, when he removed to the village of Giltner and here has held since 1913 the office of postmaster, in which his ad-

ministration has been effective and popular, and he is known as one of the most liberal and progressive citizens of this thriving little town. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company at Giltner and is an active and valued member of the local Farmers Union. While residing on his farm Mr. Cutts served twenty years as a member of the school board of the district and at the present time is president of the board of education at Giltner. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Modern Woodmen of America.

In 1886 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Cutts to Miss Maria B. Krabiel, a representative of another of the sterling pioneer families of Hamilton county, and their children are: Nettie, the wife of Oscar F. McDaniel, a prosperous farmer of Hamilton county; Elsie, the wife of William E. Rawlings, who has active charge of the old Cutts homestead farm; Minnie, the wife of Chris. R. Erb of this county; Georgia, who died in 1899; and Edwin, who remains at home.

MRS. LOUISA FENSTER

Since 1871, Mrs. Louisa Fenster, widow of Frank Fenster, has made her home in York county, where she is residing, a beloved and respected citizen. A native of Missouri, she was born in St. Louis on the 28th of August, 1850.

In 1869, while residing in Wisconsin, Mrs. Fenster, then Miss Louise Van Housen, became the wife of Frank Fenster, a native of Germany. His birth occurred in that country on the 25th of September, 1843, and in 1860, when about eighteen years of age, he came to the United States. He settled near Madison, Wisconsin, and there met and married his wife. In 1861, Mr. Fenster enlisted in the Union army, participated in the siege of Vicksburg, was with Sherman on his march to the sea and in 1865 received his honorable discharge. Returning to Wisconsin, he was married in 1869, and, in 1871, Mr. and Mrs. Fenster set out for York county, Nebraska. On arriving there, Mr. Fenster homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres. The trip to the west had been made overland in a covered wagon and the usual pioneer hardships were passed through. A period of eighteen days was required for the journey. The first abode of the Fensters on their homestead was of sod, they living with neighbors until it could be built. Mr. Fenster had but one team, with the aid of which he set about to put his land into cultivation, breaking it himself. During their early life in the county they suffered many privations and white bread was almost a luxury, corn bread being its substitute; their fuel was mostly corn stalks and twisted grass and their first callers were Indians, who would stop at the farm while on their fall and spring hunting trips and proved to be very friendly. The first trading was done at Lincoln, that town, Central City and Sutton then being the main trading posts. Two days were required in making the trip. Prairie fires were a great menace to the pioneers, and Mr. and Mrs. Fenster experienced several disasters, at one time losing everything but their sod home. The winters were very severe and the Easter storm of 1873 caused them considerable suffering. For three days they were completely snowed under and were compelled to burn the logs which formed a part of their sod dwelling. They had to use snow water to drink and for



FRANK FENSTER

making coffee. Although their path was strewn with many obstacles Mr. and Mrs. Fenster never lost heart, but each misfortune seemed only to spur them on to greater effort. Their land reached a high state of cultivation and some time before his death, Mr. Fenster was in possession of seven hundred and forty acres of fine farm land. He was known throughout the community as a successful and progressive farmer and as a man quick to grasp every opportunity within his reach. On the 15th of October, 1902, Mr. Fenster met with an accident and as a result of internal injuries passed away on the 19th, just four days later. News of his death caused a feeling of widespread bereavement, for in his passing the community lost a valuable and representative citizen. For a quarter of a century he was a steward in the Lutheran church and was a generous contributor to all charitable affairs.

To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Fenster eleven children were born: Tildie; Charles; Annie; Augusta; Dora; Rhienart; Herman; Emil; Richard, who passed away at the age of eight years; Frank, whose death occurred when but thirteen months old; and another child who passed away in infancy. Emil saw active service in the World war, being a member of Company D, Thirty-Fifth Division, Infantry, and was abroad for seven months.

Mrs. Fenster is now residing in Hampton, where she has a nice home and as a result of their former years of diligence and industry is financially independent.

WILLIAM STEPHENS

William Stephens, who is now farming two hundred and forty acres in Eldorado township, in Clay county, is a native of Scotland, in which country his birth occurred on the 24th of December, 1863. His father was William Stephens, whose death occurred in Illinois.

When but four years of age William Stephens came to the United States with his parents, who located at Paterson, New Jersey, for some time and subsequently removed to Illinois. There they engaged in farming and there William Stephens received his education, attending the country schools of the county. He went to school, however, but three months out of each year and spent the remainder of the time helping his father farm the home place. In 1880 he left the parental roof and went to Iowa, where he rented land and engaged in farming for six years, at the end of which time he came west and located in Clay county. For two years he farmed rented land in that county and then bought one hundred and sixty acres, one eighty in Hamilton county and the other eighty in Clay county. He lived on the land in Clay county, where he built a little shack house and shed stable and broke part of the land himself. He brought both farms to a high state of cultivation and made many improvements on them. He has always engaged in general farming, stock raising and feeding and is widely recognized as an agriculturist of much ability. He experienced the hardships of those early times, losing his crops in the droughts of 1893 and 1894, but he was ever determined to success and as a result allowed no obstacle, however great, to remain long in his path.

While residing in Iowa Mr. Stephens was united in marriage to Miss Bertha

Richards, a native of Pottawattamie county, Iowa, and her demise occurred in September, 1916. Nine children were born to their union: Florence; Edna; Esta; Grace; Hazel; James; Ruth, who is teaching in the district school; Clara; and Ida, who is deceased.

Mr. Stephens gives his political allegiance to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. Fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen of Harvard. He is school moderator of school district No. 69 and likewise prominent in the civic affairs of the community. His wife was for many years preceding her death a consistent member of the Christian church. Mr. Stephens is now in possession of two hundred and forty acres of well improved land and in the cultivation of this land is achieving more than a gratifying amount of success.

DANIEL J. KRABIEL

The boyhood memories of Daniel J. Krabiel, a substantial citizen and representative farmer of Hamilton county, touch the pioneer era in the history of this county and here he has so availed himself of opportunities as to achieve a high degree of success and prestige in connection with progressive farm industry.

Mr. Krabiel was born in Woodford county, Illinois, on the 23d of December, 1869, and is a son of Daniel and Magdalena Schweitzer Krabiel, the former a native of Germany and the latter of France, from which country her parents immigrated to the United States when she was ten years of age. Daniel Krabiel had been employed by the month at farm work in Ohio prior to his removal to Illinois, to which state he drove from Ohio with team and wagon. In Woodford county, Illinois, he became the owner of a farm of eighty acres and this property he sold when he determined to number himself among the pioneer settlers in Hamilton county, Nebraska. He came with his family to this county in 1883 and in Hamilton township as now constituted he purchased two hundred acres of land, on which had been erected a small frame house and barn. Only a minor part of the soil had been broken and prepared for cultivation, but he not only reclaimed and developed this tract but also added to the area of his farm property until he was the owner of three quarter sections in Hamilton county. He won substantial success as a farmer in this state and continued in possession of the farm property until his death in 1903 at the age of sixty-nine years, his widow having passed away at the age of seventy years, in 1911, and both were earnest and consistent members of the Mennonite church. They were sterling folk and were held in high esteem in Hamilton county.

Daniel J. Krabiel acquired his rudimentary education in the schools of his native county and was a lad of thirteen years when he accompanied his parents from Illinois to Nebraska. In Hamilton county he attended the pioneer district schools during the winter terms when his services were not needed on the home farm and upon attaining to his legal majority he initiated his independent activities as a farmer. After utilizing for some time land owned by his father he purchased eighty acres in Orville township and of his progressive success since that time no further voucher is required than the statement that he is now the owner of a finely improved

farm estate of three hundred and twenty acres, devoted to diversified agriculture and to the raising of excellent types of live stock, especially red polled cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs, to which Mr. Krabiel has given marked attention during the past decade. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Co-operative Grain & Livestock Company, is independent in politics, has served as school director of district No. 11, and has shown lively and helpful interest in those projects and enterprises that have been for the general good of his home community and county.

On December 15, 1897, Mr Krabiel was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Engel, who likewise is a native of Illinois, and their only child, Glenn, remains with them on the home farm, in the activities of which he takes part.

HARVEY COLE

With various important business interests that have contributed to the agricultural and financial development of Hamilton county Harvey Cole was closely associated and his position was that of a leading and influential citizen. He was born in Rock Run township, Stephenson county, Illinois, January 21, 1850. His father, Wilson Cole, was of English descent but was of American birth. His mother, who bore the maiden name of Charlotte Wells, was born in England but came to the United States at the age of twelve years. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Cole became pioneer residents of Stephenson county, Illinois, and there they reared their family of seven sons, of whom Harvey was the fifth in order of birth. Sidney, the eldest son, joined the Union army and died during the war, while Frank passed away soon afterward. The mother's death occurred in 1863. Three of the sons, Freeman, Darwin and Harvey, went to work on a farm during the summer months and attended school in the winter, while the two younger sons, Adelbert and David, remained at home under the care of a housekeeper, being not yet old enough to attend school. Freeman, Harvey, Adelbert and David afterward became pioneer settlers of Hamilton county.

After completing his course in the district schools Harvey Cole attended Mount Morris College at Mount Morris, Illinois, and was there graduated with the class of 1871. The following winter he engaged in teaching school at Rock Run and in April, 1872, came to this state, where he homesteaded on eighty acres of land four and a half miles southwest of Aurora. At the same time he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land adjoining, for which he paid two dollars and fifty cents per acre. Through the two following years grasshoppers destroyed practically all of the crops and the early settlers were therefore involved in many hardships and trials. In 1875 Mr. Cole proved up on the homestead and returned to Illinois, where he again engaged in farming for two years, while the winter months were spent in teaching school. He then returned to Nebraska and bought another eighty acres, making his farm three hundred and twenty acres. At a subsequent period he purchased a quarter section two miles to the north and a half mile east of Aurora and thus became the owner of considerable valuable farm property. In the year 1883 he was elected county treasurer, to which office he was reelected in 1885. On first being called to the position he removed with his

family to Aurora and purchased the old home known as the Hellings place. From that time until his death he continued a resident of the county seat. In 1887 he assisted in organizing the Aurora State Bank, of which he became cashier, continuing to fill that position until 1903, when he resigned and engaged in buying live stock until June, 1906. In the latter year he returned to the field of banking, becoming one of the directors and cashier of the Fidelity National Bank upon its organization and continuing to serve until forced to resign on account of ill health in 1909. He was also a member of the Farmers Telephone Association, the Aurora Building & Loan Association and the Aurora College Building. He cooperated in many plans and measures for the public good as well as for the promotion and upbuilding of his own fortunes and his worth as a man and citizen was widely acknowledged.

At Rock Run, Illinois, in 1873, Mr. Cole was married to Miss Nellie Jane Mallory, the eldest daughter of Jasper and Elsie Mallory, of Rock Run. Her parents were early settlers of Illinois. Her father was born in Ohio and her mother in New York, but when quite young they became residents of the Prairie state. To Mr. and Mrs. Cole were born eight children, of whom two, Edwin and Roy, died in early infancy, while Jessie passed away at the age of twelve years. The five still living are: Arthur B., now of Lincoln, Nebraska, who married Rachel Isaman, daughter of one of the early settlers of Hamilton county; Carrie M., the wife of Dr. J. W. Dorwart, now of Seattle, Washington; Jasper F., who is a practicing dentist of Aurora and who married Ruth Erie Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnson, of Aurora; Josephine, the wife of Walter M. Boyd of Aurora; and Viva, now at home. The family circle was again broken by the hand of death when on the 4th of April, 1910, Mr. Cole passed away and was laid to rest in the Aurora cemetery. Mrs. Cole was the donor of Cole Park in Aurora, a playground for children, the gift being made in memory of her husband.

Mr. Cole was a member of Aurora Lodge, A. F. & A. M., also of the Royal Arch chapter, the Eastern Star and the Royal Highlanders. His political allegiance was always given to the republican party and in addition to filling the office of county treasurer for two terms he served as a member of the board of education in Aurora during the early '90s and again from 1905 until 1910. The cause of the public schools always found in him a stalwart champion and he did everything in his power to promote education and improve the system of the public schools. He was keenly interested in everything that had to do with welfare and progress and his aid and influence were ever on the side of right, reform and improvement.

A. EINER PETERSON

A. Einer Peterson, one of the foremost merchants of Aurora, conducting a large general store which includes almost every line save groceries, has built up an extensive business through enterprise, determination and capability. He was born in Sweden, March 21, 1866, and acquired his education in the schools of that country, although he attended school to a limited extent after reaching the new world. He came alone to Hamilton county in 1883 and for two years after

becoming a resident of Nebraska was employed in a store in Lincoln. It was then that he took up his abode in Aurora and here entered the employ of his brother, A. G. Peterson, with whom he remained until 1888. In that year he purchased an interest in the business, continuing in the store until 1889 and in 1891 sold his interest. In 1893 he again entered into partnership with his brother but again sold out in 1911. He then established a store independently and now has one of the large mercantile interests of the city, carrying an extensive line of goods, so that his establishment ranks with the leading department stores of Hamilton county. He is thoroughly progressive in his methods and has ever recognized the fact that satisfied patrons are the best advertisement. Moreover, his previous experience was broad and thorough and well qualified him for the care of his trade.

In 1900 Mr. Peterson was married to Miss Adelaide Thomas who was born in South Bend, Indiana, a daughter of A. N. Thomas, a pioneer of Aurora who was engaged in the shoe trade and in the hotel business here for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have become parents of two children: Thomas A., who is now a student in Knox College at Galesburg, Illinois; and Adelaide, a pupil in the graded schools of Aurora. Mrs. Peterson is a member of the Christian church. Mr. Peterson is an exemplary representative of the Masonic fraternity and has taken the degrees of the Scottish Rite and Mystic Shrine. He is also identified with the Knights of Pythias. His political endorsement is given to the republican party and for six years he served as a member of the city council, exercising his official prerogatives in support of all those plans and measures which feature in the public good. He and his family occupy an attractive home in Aurora and their position in social circles is an enviable one. Mr. Peterson is now devoting his entire attention to his business and his store is one of the leading commercial enterprises of Aurora. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he found the business opportunities which he sought and in their utilization has worked his way steadily upward until he now ranks with the progressive and prosperous merchants of the city.

LEWIS C. ANDERSON

A sterling pioneer citizen whose activities in connection with the development of the agricultural resources of Hamilton county marked him as a constructive agent in furthering the civic and material progress of this section of Nebraska, is Lewis C. Anderson, now living virtually retired in a pleasant home at Marquette, and his character and achievement well entitle him to recognition in this history. He was born in Denmark, in the year 1855, and is a son of Andrew C. and Dora M. (Larsen) Larsen, who did not come to America until after their son Lewis C., of this review, had established his home in Nebraska. In his native land the father became a skilled artisan in the manufacturing of wooden shoes and he continued to follow his trade in Denmark until 1876, when he and his wife came to the United States and established their home in Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he purchased forty acres of government land and forty acres of school land,

in Otis township. His original habitation on this pioneer farm was a small sod house which he provided with a board floor, an improvement that was lacking in many similar houses of the locality and period. The lumber used in this primitive domicile cost only thirteen dollars and was hauled by team from Central City. In the developing and improving of his land he set out a small orchard and also planted a number of forest trees. He reclaimed much of his land to cultivation and both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives in Hamilton county, where he died in 1895, at the age of sixty-six years, and his wife lived to be seventy-eight years of age. Both were zealous communicants of the Danish Lutheran church. It is interesting to record that Mr. Larsen found ready demand for the wooden shoes which he manufactured after establishing his residence in Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Larsen became the parents of four children: Antamena, the eldest, still resides in Hamilton county, where her husband, the late J. P. Christenson, was a prosperous farmer; Lewis C., of this sketch, was the next in order of birth; Lena is the widow of Samuel Anderson, who was a farmer of Hamilton county; and Anton P. is a resident of Grand Island, Nebraska.

Lewis C. Anderson is indebted to the schools of his native land for his early education, and there he served a five years' apprenticeship to the trade of carpenter. He received no pay for his services during this period, but the discipline was of enduring value, as he became a skilled artisan. He continued to work at his trade in Denmark until 1874, when he immigrated to the United States and came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he purchased eighty acres of railroad land. At a price of five dollars per acre he employed men to break the land of this embryonic farm and in the meantime added to his revenues by finding employment at his trade in Grand Island, Hall county. As a builder he worked on the first schoolhouse in that now vital and progressive little city and continued to devote the greater part of his time to work at the carpenter's trade until 1876, when he established his residence on his farm. In that year he erected a small frame house on the place and from time to time purchased more land in the same part of Otis township. He has since sold the greater part of his land in Hamilton county, but is the owner of a valuable tract of one hundred and seventy acres in Merrick county. He endured the trials and perplexities that fell to the lot of all the pioneer farmers of this locality and knows well the efficacy of corn and corn-stalks as fuel and the dubious pleasure of being compelled to grind wheat in a coffee mill when it proved impossible to take the grain to a mill on the Platte river, a number of miles distant. He continued his residence on his farm until 1915 and in the meantime had developed it into one of the valuable landed properties of Hamilton county. Upon leaving the farm he removed to Marquette, in which village he is now living retired, in full enjoyment of the prosperity that has crowned his many years of zealous toil and enterprise in connection with farm industry. Mr. Anderson is a loyal and appreciative citizen of his adopted county and state, is independent in politics and he and his wife are communicants of the Danish Lutheran church.

The year 1887 recorded the marriage of Mr. Anderson to Miss Martena Christensen, who was born in Denmark, a daughter of Peter and Johanna Christensen, who came to Hamilton county in 1872 and became pioneer settlers near the present village of Hampton, where Mr. Christensen took up a homestead and reclaimed

a productive farm. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson became the parents of eleven children, of whom nine are living: Dora is the widow of Otto Fethersen, who was a farmer in Hamilton county; Edward F. is a farmer in Merrick county; Elmer F. and Andrew C. are vigorous exponents of farm enterprise in Hamilton county; Emma N. is the wife of Jeremiah Benson, a farmer of this county; Louis P., Clara M., Scenne and Rudolph M. remain at home. One child died in infancy and Josephine died at the age of seven years.

CLARENCE CASS

Clarence Cass, operating extensively and successfully in the real estate field of Aurora and Hamilton county, was born in Oswego county, New York, October 29, 1868, his parents being O. W. and Mary Jane (Crippen) Cass, both of whom were natives of the Empire state where they resided until 1872. Attracted by the opportunities of the growing west they came to Nebraska, settling in Hamilton county where Mr. Cass secured a homestead claim which he still owns, having in the meantime converted it into a rich and valuable property. He is now living in California, but his wife passed away in 1889. They were the parents of five children, three of whom were born in New York and two in Hamilton county. The three born in New York first opened their eyes to the light of day in the same house where had occurred the birth of their father, his six brothers and one sister. The children of Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Cass are: Clarence; Melvin J., who is connected with his brother Clarence in business but is now at Long Beach, California, for his health; H. D., a farmer living near Burwell, Nebraska; O. W., who carries on farming near Aurora; and Florence, the wife of George Bowen, a druggist of Rainier, Oregon. The parents were members of the Baptist church with which Mr. Cass is still identified and fraternally he is connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, while in political faith he is a democrat.

Clarence Cass completed his education as a high school pupil in Aurora and through the period of his boyhood and youth, when not busy with the duties of the schoolroom, his attention was largely given to the work of the home farm. He continued to carry on general agricultural pursuits until he attained his majority and then became connected with the dry goods trade as clerk in an Aurora store in which he was employed for five years. On the expiration of that period he turned his attention to the restaurant business and was active along that line for seventeen years, conducting a business of gratifying proportions. He dates his residence in Aurora from about 1891. In 1914 he purchased the real estate business of W. W. Shenberger and has since handled real estate, collections and insurance. He has both farm and city property for rent and has negotiated many important realty transfers. With the thoroughness that has always characterized him he has acquainted himself with all property that is on the market and thoroughly knows real estate values. He is also a stockholder in the First National Bank and the Farmers' State Bank and is the owner of land in Hamilton county.

On the 10th of October, 1910, Mr. Cass was married to Miss Clara Pense, a native of Illinois, whose father was one of the pioneer residents of Clay county,

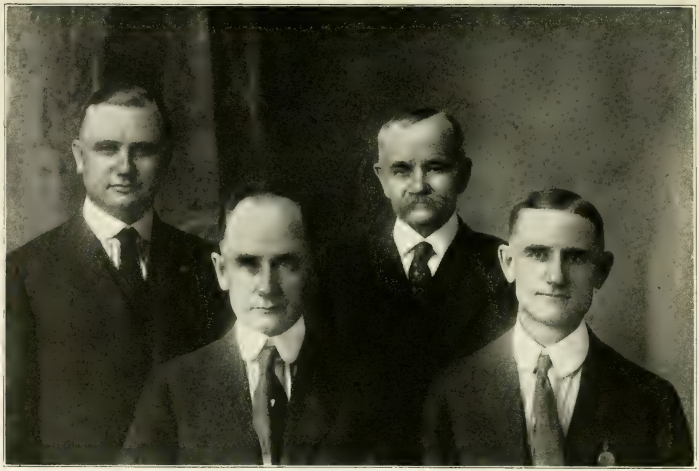
Nebraska, where he secured a homestead claim upon which he spent his remaining days. Mr. and Mrs. Cass have one child, Lawrence, now nine years of age. Mrs. Cass belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and is a lady of many admirable qualities. Mr. Cass holds membership with the Masonic fraternity, with the Highlanders and with the Modern Woodmen and his political endorsement is given to the republican party. He is interested in all that pertains to general progress and improvement in his community and his aid has been a tangible force in bringing about advancement and development along various lines.

C. P. NELSON

In former years C. P. Nelson was closely associated with agricultural interests in Hamilton county but is now living retired in Aurora. He has passed the seventy-sixth milestone on life's journey and it is fitting that in the evening of his day he should enjoy rest as a reward for his former industry and business activity. He was born in Sweden, March 18, 1845, and is a son of Nels Nelson and Catherina Peterson, both of whom were natives of Sweden, where they spent their entire lives, the father being a well-to-do farmer of that country. They belong to the Lutheran church and in that faith they reared their family of eight children, seven of whom are living, all of them residents of Sweden with the exception of C. P. of this review.

In the school of his native country C. P. Nelson pursued his education, worked upon the farm in Sweden until 1871, when at the age of twenty-six years he crossed the Atlantic to the new world, attracted by the opportunities which he believed he could secure on this side of the water. He arrived in Hamilton county on the 17th of August of that year and took up a homestead and also a preemption claim. For a number of months he had remained in Illinois, where he and another man purchased an old wagon and a horse apiece, making a team, and with this outfit started across the country to Nebraska. When they arrived they had a cash capital of but thirty dollars between them. They built a sod house, going in debt for some windows and lumber necessary to complete the dwelling. Their experiences were such as usually fell to the lot of pioneer settlers. Their meat was largely furnished by the game that they could kill and they made coffee out of parched corn. Mr. Nelson began working for a man at twenty-five cents per day and was thus employed for some time. He continued to live on the homestead and as the years passed was able to carry on the work of improvement. He built a frame house and added all necessary equipment for the development and cultivation of the farm, which in the course of years was converted into a productive place, so that he annually gathered golden harvests and thus year by year added to his financial resources. In 1916 he sold his homestead and removed to Aurora, where he has since lived.

In 1875 Mr. Nelson was married to Miss Anna Sophia Swanson, who was born in Wisconsin, and they have become the parents of four children, three of whom are living: Clarence, who is employed in a real estate office in Chicago; Henry V., who is county clerk; and Arthur S., who is county superintendent of



C. P. NELSON AND SONS

schools in Hamilton county. Mrs. Nelson passed away May 30, 1891, her death being deeply felt by many friends, as well as her immediate family, for she was a lady of many excellent traits of character which endeared her to all who knew her. Mr. Nelson now occupies a beautiful home in Aurora at No. 918 Fifteenth street and is the owner of a large amount of land in Chase and Hitchcock counties, Nebraska, and in Weld county, Colorado. He also has another tract of three hundred and twenty acres in Western Nebraska and his holdings are the visible evidences of his life of well directed energy and thrift. Every dollar he possesses he has made through his own efforts and his life record should serve to inspire and encourage others, showing what can be accomplished through individual labor, intelligently directed. He is a member of the Swedish Mission church and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. He served as a member of the school board and also a member of the town board while on the farm for a number of years and at no time has he been neglectful of the duties of citizenship. On the contrary he has cooperated in all the improvements which tend to promote business progress and advance the welfare of this section of the state and his worth as a man and citizen is widely acknowledged.

CHARLES F. MEYER

Charles F. Meyer is one of the respected and influential citizens of Sutton, where he now resides in retirement from active business life. A native of Prussia he was born in that country February 3, 1847, a son of Charles F. and Pauline (Deubrich) Meyer, the former a native of Germany, while the latter was of Spanish descent. The father came to America in 1852 and resided in New York state for but a short time and then removed to Wisconsin in 1856. He was a shoemaker and tanner by trade and followed these occupations there with a great amount of success. His death occurred while residing in that state. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Meyer, Charles F., our subject, being the only one living. Mr. Meyer was married three times and to his second marriage two children were born, both of whom are deceased. Throughout his life the father was a stanch democrat and his religious faith was that of the Lutheran church.

Charles F. Meyer received his education in the public schools of Wisconsin and after putting his textbooks aside learned the shoemaker's trade, which he followed for some time. In 1864, at the age of seventeen years, he enlisted in Company B, Thirty-ninth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and participated in many of the important battles of the Civil war, among them the battle of Tupelo, Mississippi. After the close of the war he returned to Wisconsin, where he resumed his shoemaking business and in addition learned wagon and carriage painting, following this latter line of work for two years. In the fall of 1872 he came to Nebraska, locating in Sutton on the 17th of October, that year, at the time of his arrival the population of Sutton numbering but about fifty people. He followed his trade as a shoemaker in Sutton until 1881, when he was made deputy postmaster and served in that office from 1884 to 1888. At the termination of that office he engaged in the conduct of a general mercantile store, continuing in this business

in which he realized a substantial amount of success until 1892, at which time he retired.

In March, 1868, Mr. Meyer was united in marriage to Miss Rachael Honey, a native of Wisconsin and of Scotch parentage. Her father was one of the pioneer homesteaders of Fillmore county, having come to that county in 1870. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Meyer four children have been born: Frank, who is an electrician at Trenton, New Jersey; Viola J., who is teaching in the schools of Florence; Madge Evelyn, superintendent of the Milford Home; and Llora, who is filling a government position at Port Townsend, Oregon.

Mr. Meyer has the distinction of having been the first town marshal of Sutton, elected to that office in 1878. Fraternally Mr. Meyer is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Meyer has for many years been one of the influential citizens of Clay county and a man who readily gives his assistance to the advancement of every enterprise seeking the further development and improvement of his county and state. He and his wife are now residing in a very comfortable home near the business district of Sutton.

N. O. DEINES

N. O. Deines, who is engaged in the conduct of a butchering business and grocery store in Clay Center, was born in Russia, in November, 1877, a son of John and Lena (Schliker) Deines, both of whom were natives of Russia, born in 1833. They came to Clay county, Nebraska, in 1878, when the father purchased land which he farmed for a time and then sold. On the expiration of that period he took up his abode in Clay Center, where both he and his wife passed away, his death occurring in September, 1896. In their family were twelve children, of whom eleven are living.

N. O. Deines is the third in order of birth in the family and all are living in Clay county with the exception of the eldest sister. The father gave his political endorsement to the republican party, voting in support of its men and measures, yet never seeking office. Both he and his wife were members of the Congregational church and their well-spent lives gained for them the respect and confidence of all who knew them.

N. O. Deines attended the Clay county schools, completing his studies in Clay Center. His first work was in connection with the butchering business, which he followed with his brother, William M., about thirty years ago. He afterward purchased the interest of his brother in the business and has conducted the store to the present time. He has also secured a line of groceries and ranks with the progressive merchants of the town, carrying an attractive stock of staple and fancy groceries and an excellent line of meats. He likewise owns land in Colorado and is truly a self-made man, for his success has all come to him as a reward of his persistency, energy and fair dealing.

In March, 1904, Mr. Deines was married to Miss Elizabeth Schwingle, who was born in Clay county, Nebraska, a daughter of George Schwingle, who became

one of the early homesteaders in this part of the state and passed away in Clay Center in May, 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Deines are the parents of six children: Helen, Burnette, Catherine, Norval and Royce, all in school; and Mary Elizabeth, three years of age. The parents attend the Congregational church and are also members of the Highlanders. Mr. Deines has voted with the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise but does not seek nor desire office, devoting his entire attention to his business affairs since he made his initial start in the business world about thirty years ago.

THOMAS HOWARD

This publication exercises one of its most consistent and important functions when it enters memorial tribute to such honored and resourceful pioneers as the late Thomas Howard, who came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, about four years after the admission of the state to the Union, proved well his powers of mind and body in coping with the conditions and influences that marked the early period in the history of this now opulent commonwealth. He was one of the venerable pioneer citizens of this section of the state at the time of his death, which occurred at his home in the village of Giltner, on the 28th of December, 1920, his birth having occurred in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, April 8, 1837. Mr. Howard was reared in the old Keystone state, where he received the advantages of the common schools of the period and his earlier pioneer experience was gained in the state of Wisconsin, where he was residing at the outbreak of the Civil war. His youthful patriotism was shown by his prompt enlistment in response to President Lincoln's first call for volunteers. At Madison, the capital of Wisconsin, he enlisted as a private in Company H, Seventh Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and the history of this gallant command represents virtually the record of his career as a soldier of the Union, for with it he served during practically the entire period of the war. He participated in twenty-seven battles, a number of them of major importance, including Bull Run and Gettysburg. He was three times wounded, but was not long incapacitated for service. After receiving his honorable discharge at the close of the war, Mr. Howard returned to Wisconsin and there gave his attention to farm enterprise until 1871, when, with team and covered wagon, he and his wife set out for the new state of Nebraska. They brought with them about sixty head of horses and cattle and six weeks elapsed before they reached their destination in Hamilton county. Here Mr. Howard entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Union township and the original domicile which he provided was a small shanty, with dirt roof and floor, a sod addition having later added to the accommodations of the primitive dwelling, the first stable also having been of sod construction. Sutton and Lincoln were Mr. Howard's principal trading points in the early days and he did much to provide the family larder by his prowess with the rifle, with which he killed antelopes, deer and wild turkeys and participated in two or three buffalo hunts. He was out-of-doors during much of the historic Easter blizzard, as he found it necessary to keep careful watch of his live stock and during the three days that the storm prevailed the family depended upon melted snow for

water, as it was impossible to use the well on the place. The usual experience of the pioneers in connection with loss through droughts and grasshoppers fell to the lot of Mr. Howard, and on one occasion not only all vegetation on the Howard farm was destroyed by the grasshoppers, but the granary was literally covered with the insects. Mr. Howard and his wife did not falter in faith or courage under adverse conditions and their persistency was rewarded with the substantial prosperity which eventually came to them in connection with farm industry in the state of their adoption.

In Wisconsin was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Howard to Miss Elizabeth Cutts, who was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, and concerning whose family history adequate record appears elsewhere in this work, in the personal sketch of her brother, Edward Cutts. Mr. Howard continued in active supervision of his fine farm until 1906, when he and his wife established their home at Giltner, where he passed the remainder of his life. Of their ten children the eldest is Laura, who is the wife of Henry Gimple, a farmer in Hamilton county; Russell now owns and has charge of his father's old home farm; Alice, Alva, Margaret, George, Scott, May, Eva and Bertha are all deceased. Mrs. Howard endured the trials and hardships of the pioneer days but in the gracious twilight of life she is surrounded by friends who are tried and true, is enjoying peace and prosperity and finds that in her widowhood there is a generous measure of consolation and compensation granted to her in the community in which she is known and honored as a true pioneer woman.

Mr. Howard took lively and helpful interest in community affairs, was a stanch republican, was affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic and was an earnest member of the Presbyterian church, as is also his widow.

CHARLES FRANK

Charles Frank, who is now residing on his farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Harvard township, Clay county, was born in Germany on the 15th of November, 1854, and at the age of ten years came with his parents to the United States. The parents first located at Bloomington, Illinois, and there Charles Frank grew to manhood. His parents had a fine farm in that vicinity and after putting his textbooks aside Mr. Frank engaged in working out on various farms, for his services receiving eighteen dollars a month. He started out into life for himself at the age of sixteen years. In the spring of 1884 he came west to Nebraska and located in Clay county, where he lived on rented land for six years. In 1890, however, he bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, for which he paid twelve dollars and fifty cents per acre. This land now forms a part of his present farm. There were a few improvements on the place, consisting of a log house and log barn and Mr. Frank immediately set about to bring the land to a highly cultivated state. From time to time he increased his acreage until he is now in possession of three hundred and twenty acres on which he engages in general farming, mostly grain, and raising cattle and hogs.

On the 1st of July, 1880, Mr. Frank was married to Miss Minnie Casselman

and they have become parents of eight children: Howard; Ida; Walter; Harry; Clara; Leo; Charles; and Gordon.

In the civic affairs of the community Mr. Frank has always taken an active part and fraternally is identified with the Woodmen. He is one of the valuable citizens of Nebraska of German birth and has proved himself to be a citizen of whom any community would be proud.

J. C. OSBORN

Death often removes those whom a community can ill afford to lose. Such was the case when J. C. Osborn passed away on the 11th of January, 1910, leaving a widow and nine children. He had played well his part in the world's work as a representative agriculturist of the community and as a supporter of all those things which make for progress and for public welfare. He was born in Coffeeville, Missouri, March 2, 1861, and was a son of John W. and Catherine (Knox) Osborn, who were natives of Tennessee, but became early residents of Missouri and in 1871 removed to Kansas, where their remaining days were passed. The father served on the Union side in the Civil war and when not engaged in military service his attention was devoted to the development of his farm that he might thus provide for his family.

J. C. Osborn was reared and educated in Missouri and Kansas, spending his youthful days as a farm bred boy. He owned land in Kansas and while there residing was united in marriage in October, 1886, to Miss Jennie Williams, who was born in Trenton, Missouri, a daughter of Thomas and Arminta (Embree) Williams, the former a native of Indiana, while the latter was born in Missouri. They were married in that state and afterward removed to Indiana where they lived for some time, subsequently returning to Missouri. The father was a soldier of the Confederate army during the Civil war and lost his eyesight while with the southern troops. To him and his wife were born six children of whom Mrs. Osborn was the third in order of birth. By her marriage she became the mother of nine children: Carl, living on a farm in Hamilton county; Mabel, the wife of L. A. Cunningham, a farmer residing at Lodge Pole, Nebraska; Alice, the wife of J. E. Lilliewhite, who occupies a farm in Utah and is a member of the state legislature; Allen, the twin brother of Alice, a resident farmer of Hamilton county; Myra, the wife of Joe Green who is engaged in farming in this county; Ronald Osborn of San Diego, California, who enlisted in the navy in April, 1917, and is still a member, while during the World war he saw service overseas; John C. who was in the army in the Coast Artillery and is now at home; Essie, who will graduate from the high school in 1922; and Oriole, also in school.

Mrs. Osborn attends the Christian church and she and her family are highly esteemed in Aurora, where she took up her abode in the spring of 1920, having a nice home at No. 517 M street. Mr. Osborn was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Improved Order of Red Men, while his political allegiance is given to the republican party. Coming to Nebraska in 1889 he continued a resident of this state until his death, which

occurred on the home farm in 1910. To Mrs. Osborn was left the care of her large family, the eldest being but twenty-two years of age at the time Mr. Osborn passed away. She provided for the household through capable business management and is now situated in a comfortable home in Aurora, while her financial resources are sufficient to supply her with all of the necessities and many of the luxuries of life.

JOHN PIERSON

A life of industry and activity brought John Pierson to the goal of success in business, while the integrity and reliability of his business methods gained for him the respect and confidence of all who knew him. For a long period he was connected with agricultural pursuits in Hamilton county and spent his last days in Aurora in the enjoyment of well earned rest. He was born in Sweden in 1853 and passed away in 1916. He had acquired his education in the schools of his native country and came to the United States alone when about twenty years of age, for the reports which he had heard concerning the opportunities of the new world determined him to try his fortune on this side of the Atlantic. He settled first at Princeton, Illinois, and worked as a farm hand there for about two years. In the '80s he arrived in Nebraska, taking up his abode in York county and subsequently removed to Saunders county where he purchased a farm from the railroad. With characteristic energy he bent his efforts to the development and improvement of his land and eventually sold the farm, removing to Hamilton county in 1886. Here he made investment in eighty acres of land northwest of Aurora and from time to time as his financial resources increased he added to his original tract, until at the time of his death he was the owner of a valuable farm of four hundred acres, all of which was acquired through his own effort. His original home was a little three-room dwelling but later he built a nice residence and carried on the work of improving his farm until he had one of the best properties in his section of the county. Year after year he continued to till the fields and cultivate his crops until 1916 when he put aside active work and removed to Aurora, purchasing an attractive home on West M street. His widow is now living in a comfortable home at 1316 M street.

It was in 1884 that Mr. Pierson was united in marriage to Miss Anna Rapp who was born in Sweden, a daughter of John and Anna Rapp who came to the United States in 1868, settling first at Princeton, Illinois, where her father followed the occupation of farming. He was for many years actively identified with agricultural interests in that locality and passed away in Illinois at the venerable age of eighty-six years. Mrs. Rapp survives and is now living with her daughter Mrs. Pierson, at the notable age of one hundred years, having been born in May, 1821. Mr. and Mrs. Pierson became the parents of five children: Julia, the wife of Art Johnston, a farmer of this county; Herman, who carries on farming in Hamilton county; Plenney, a farmer who died in 1920 at the age of thirty-two years; Robert, who lives with his mother; and Effie, the wife of Ralph Jones, a farmer of Hamilton county.



JOHN PIERSON AND FAMILY

Mr. Pierson was very successful in the conduct of his business affairs and in addition to tilling the soil he raised considerable stock while on the farm, making a specialty of hogs. He borrowed money with which to come to the United States and as the years passed worked his way steadily upward, all of his success and prosperity being attributable entirely to his own labors, perseverance and capable management. In his political views he was a republican and his religious faith was that of the Swedish Mission church, with which Mrs. Pierson is still identified. He was devoted to the welfare of home and family and found his greatest happiness at his own fireside, so that his loss has been there most deeply felt. Mrs. Pierson still makes her home in Aurora, being most pleasantly situated, her time being given to filial care of her mother, to the direction of her own household and to the social pleasures in which she is sought as an active participant.

PHILLIP H. SCHWAB

Since 1885 Phillip H. Schwab has been prominent in the agricultural circles of Clay county and he is now living retired in Sutton, enjoying the fruits of his years of diligence and industry. A native of Germany, his birth occurred near Darmstadt, June 29, 1841, a son of Henry and Margaret (Kuhl) Schwab, both natives of that country. The father and mother came to Illinois and settled in Lee county in 1847. There the father bought a farm, whereon he resided until his death. He was a successful and progressive farmer and hauled his grain and hogs to Chicago, a distance of ninety-three miles, where he found a ready market for them. The hogs brought two and one-half dollars per hundred pounds. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Schwab, four sons and four daughters. Only two of the family are living, however, Phillip H., whose name initiates this review, and Margaret, who is the wife of Henry Beard and resides in California. Throughout his life Mr. Schwab was a member of the republican party, casting his first vote for John C. Fremont. Both he and his wife were consistent and active members of the Lutheran church.

Phillip H. Schwab received his education in the country schools of Illinois, then offering but few educational opportunities, and after putting his textbooks aside assisted his father on the farm. He entered the Civil war in 1861, enlisting in Company B, Fifty-second Illinois Infantry. He served with that regiment until the end of the war and was wounded slightly a number of times. He participated in many of the hard fought battles of the war, and was at Fort Donelson, Shiloh and the siege of Corinth. He was also with Sherman on his march to the sea. On the 6th of July, 1865, he received his discharge at Louisville, Kentucky, and returned to Illinois, where he bought a farm and there resided for a number of years. He was a member of the state militia in 1878 and served as first lieutenant of Company F, Fourth Illinois Infantry from 1878 to 1885. In that year he tendered his resignation and removed to Clay county. He sold his Illinois land and purchased some land in Clay county, part of which he still owns. He has owned various farms, which he has improved and then sold. For a number of years he engaged in the grain elevator business in Sutton. He also had a grain elevator

at Lushton and elevators at several other places and achieved a substantial amount of success in that connection.

In 1868 occurred the marriage of Mr. Schwab and Miss Mary Schaefle, a native of northern Illinois and a daughter of Jacob Schaefle, who was a pioneer of that state. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Schwab four children have been born: Celina, who is the wife of C. L. Rosa, who works for the Standard Oil Company at Chicago, Illinois; Laura, who is the wife of A. H. Lewis, formerly engaged in the jewelry business but now a traveling salesman; Reuben P., who is a chiropractor and resides in California; and Nellie, who is the wife of W. F. Hoeger of Sutton.

In politics Mr. Schwab is a stanch republican and for a number of years served as county commissioner. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church and fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Grand Army of the Republic, having served the latter organization as post commander for a period of fifteen years. He has been on the Soldiers' Relief Board since 1892. Mr. Schwab is now residing in a fine home in Sutton, retired from all active business life. His many years of diligence and industry have brought him success and financial independence and he is respected and loved by all who know him.

EDWARD P. TITMAN

Edward P. Titman, widely known as one of the prominent farmers and successful stock raisers living in the vicinity of Aurora, was born in New Jersey on the 30th of August, 1868. His boyhood days were passed on the old home farm in that state and his educational opportunities were those accorded by the country school system in New Jersey. He attended usually about three months in the year and while still in the east he worked in the timber regions and on farms. In 1885, when a youth of seventeen years, he went to Iowa with his parents and two years afterward came to Hamilton county, where since 1887 he has made his home. He continued to assist his father in the work of the home farm a part of the time and worked out by the month a part of the time until 1892. In the following year he began farming on his own account on rented land, but was able to raise nothing in 1893 and 1894 because of the widespread drought.

In the year 1896 Mr. Titman was united in marriage to Miss Phoebe Zehr, a native of Illinois, and they began their domestic life on a rented farm, which they occupied for seven years. During that period they carefully saved their earnings and Mr. Titman, in 1904, purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land on which were a few small and insignificant improvements. There were some trees on the place and he put out an orchard. Today he has a finely improved property that is a monument to his labor, his enterprise and his business ability. Today he owns altogether three hundred and twenty acres with two sets of fine buildings and improvements on the place and he likewise has a half section of land at Stratton, Colorado. He carries on general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of Poland China hogs, and there are no better specimens of this breed to be found in Hamilton county. He also owns a shorthorn bull and jack and raises fine Percheron horses. He holds annual sales of his Poland China hogs and his stock

raising interests have for three years been an important and profitable feature of his business.

Mr. and Mrs. Titman are widely and favorably known in Hamilton county, where they have reared their family of six children. Their eldest son, Elwin, enlisted in the United States service at the time of America's entrance into the World war and was trained at Camp Cody. He left with the old Company H, holding the rank of sergeant. He did office work and later was made sergeant major. After a time he went across and was within two days of the front when the armistice was signed. The second member of the family is Chauncey, who is at home, and the others are: Merton, also at home, who was made one of the judges for the team from Aurora for the judging of hogs. He is considered one of the best hog judges in the state. Mazie, who is attending the high school at Aurora; Fairy, who died at the age of eighteen months; and Velva, at home. The parents and children are members of the Lysinger Presbyterian church and take an active interest in its work, contributing generously to its support. Mr. Titman has also served as a member of the school board. He is an independent voter, considering the capability of the candidates rather than party ties, and fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America.

B. F. NALL

Among the number of most substantial and highly respected citizens of Clay county, who by reason of their industry and progressiveness in former years have been enabled to spend their last years in well earned retirement, was the late B. F. Nall, who was born in Morgan county, Illinois, May 2, 1841, a son of Russell and Hannah (Peters) Nall, the former a native of Tennessee, while the latter was born in Kentucky. In early life they became residents of Illinois and were married in that state. The father was a farmer and brick-maker and burned the first kiln of brick in Macoupin county, Illinois. He was associated with J. I. Rinaker, a prominent man of that locality. Mr. Nall and his wife were loyal members of the Christian church and his political support was given to the democratic party. He was quite successful in his business affairs and in addition to the lines of activity previously mentioned he was well known as a stock buyer and drove his stock from Illinois to St. Louis. He lived a life of intense industry, being never afraid of hard work and his diligence was the basis of his prosperity. Both he and his wife departed this life in Illinois. They were the parents of nine children and the mother also had nine children by a second marriage. One of the first family is still living: Mrs. Susana Berryman, who is now a widow, residing in Texas. B. F., of this review, passed away March 28, 1921.

In the common schools of Illinois B. F. Nall pursued his education and on the 20th of October, 1861, when twenty years of age, he volunteered for service in the Union army, becoming a member of Company A, Thirty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for nine months. He then became ill of brain fever and his eyesight was thus destroyed, so that he was totally blind for forty years. After the war he returned to Illinois and was married in that state to Miss Martha

Evans, who was there born March 9, 1842, a daughter of William M. and Amy (Seymour) Evans, who were natives of Alabama and of North Carolina, respectively. Her father was a preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church and served as a chaplain in the Ninety-ninth Illinois Regiment during the Civil war. He was a millwright by occupation, but engaged in preaching the gospel for many years. To Mr. and Mrs. Nall were born nine children, of whom seven are living: Mrs. Ella Hart, whose husband is a retired farmer of Edgar, Nebraska; Mrs. Sina Hayes of Colorado, whose husband follows farming there; Mrs. Anna Lewis, whose husband is a retired farmer of Clay Center; William A., who carries on farming in Clay county; Franklin, also living on a farm in the same county; Mrs. Mary Schwab, whose husband is a farmer of Wyoming; and Mrs. Minnie Cooper, whose husband is a ranchman and farmer of California.

It was in October, 1872, that Mr. Nall brought his family to Clay county and here he homesteaded, securing one hundred and sixty acres of land. He lived in a sod house in the early days and had a sod barn on his place. As time passed he improved the property and purchased one hundred and eighty acres of additional land. His family still owns the three hundred and twenty acres of rich and valuable farm land in Clay county, on which he placed many splendid modern improvements and his sons now occupy the farm. In September, 1906, the parents removed to Clay Center where he and his wife were living at the time of his death, he having here erected a nice home. Mr. Nall certainly deserved great credit for what he accomplished. He came to Nebraska empty-handed and, moreover, was handicapped by his blindness. Notwithstanding all this, his industry, his careful management and sound business judgment enabled him to wring fortunes from the hands of fate, and he became one of the men of affluence in Clay Center. His political support was given to the republican party and he was a member of the Evangelical church, as is also his widow. They have long been numbered among the most highly esteemed residents of this part of the state, enjoying the friendship and kindly regard of all. He was a member of the G. A. R. Post for many years.

CARL F. HUENEFELD

Carl F. Huenefeld, who devoted his life to the occupation of farming and was numbered among the leading agriculturists of Hamilton county, was born October 6, 1853, in Veldrom, Lippe Detmold, Germany, his parents being Carl and Louise Huenefeld, who emigrated to America in 1854, settling near Fennimore, Wisconsin, in the spring of 1855. There the father followed farming as a life work. Both the paternal and the maternal grandfathers of Carl F. Huenefeld were soldiers in the Napoleonic wars in the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Carl F. Huenefeld obtained a common school education in the English and German languages, while spending his youthful days on his father's farm in Wisconsin. After his textbooks were put aside he concentrated his efforts and attention upon the further work of the fields until he reached the age of twenty-four years, in 1878. He then began farming on his own account in Aurora precinct, purchasing the northeast quarter of section 31 in 1880. He built a house on this property and

he and his wife—for he previously married—took up their abode there. In 1911, however, they removed to Arkansas, where they now reside. Mr. Huenefeld has become the owner of land in Nebraska, Arkansas and Louisiana and has also made other judicious investments.

It was at Liberty Ridge, Wisconsin, on the 30th of May, 1880, that Mr. Huenefeld was married to Miss Anna Elizabeth Bald, whose parents were natives of Germany, but came to America when quite young. They lived in Philadelphia for a number of years and settled in the town of Liberty, Grant county, Wisconsin, in 1858. To Mr. and Mrs. Huenefeld have been born eleven children, all of whom are living and five of the number are married. Three of the sons reside in Nebraska, one daughter in Las Vegas, New Mexico, one son in Louisiana and six of the children in Arkansas. There are also thirteen grandchildren. One of the sons, Arnold, was with the American forces in France during the World war, while another son, Fred, was in training at Camp Stanley, Texas, at the time the armistice was signed.

Mr. Huenefeld never held office save serving on the election board and as school director, for he always preferred to devote his time and attention to his business interests. He has given his political support at times to the democratic and to the populist parties, but in 1916 supported the republican candidate for the presidency. He has become identified with no secret organizations except the Farmers' Alliance and served as secretary of Harmony Alliance, its meeting place being the Prairie Center schoolhouse. When a resident of Nebraska he attended the German Evangelical church of Aurora, but since taking up his abode in Arkansas has attended the Methodist church. His has been an active and useful life and his industry and perseverance have been the broad basis upon which he has builded his success.

JOHN W. PINE

John W. Pine, now deceased, was for many years well known in the agricultural circles of Clay county as a successful and progressive farmer. Born in Ohio, November 21, 1832, he came to Illinois with his parents, William and Nancy (Tedrow) Pine, being then but six years of age.

John W. Pine is indebted to the schools of Illinois for his early education and he remained on his parents' farm until reaching man's estate. The town of Baylis now stands on land which was included in his father's farm. Mr. Pine then bought eighty acres of land in Illinois, also renting other land, and there he engaged in general farming and stock raising until his removal to Missouri in 1882. The following year he came to Nebraska and located in Fall City for a year, after which time, in 1884, he bought two hundred and forty acres of land in Clay county. There was a small two-room house on this land and also some outbuildings and he worked to bring the place to a high state of cultivation. He set out shade trees and also an orchard, but the latter mostly died out during the droughts of 1893 and 1894. In his agricultural ventures Mr. Pine achieved a great amount of success and at the time of his death was in possession of four hundred and forty acres of

fine land, well improved. In 1900 he retired from active life and removed to Trumbull, where his death occurred December 1, 1917.

While living in Illinois Mr. Pine was married to Miss Mary McCleery, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of Thomas and Martha (Lawson) McCleery, who came to Illinois at an early day. Nine children have been born to the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Pine: Lucinda, who is the wife of E. M. Rader of Trumbull; Lizzie, the wife of Alfred Hill of Pike county, Illinois; George, deceased; Martha, also deceased; Jennie, who is the wife of John Wass of Oklahoma; Lucetta, who was the wife of Oliver McCoy, but is now deceased; Ella, who is the widow of T. J. Dudgeon, a farmer in Clay county; Lucy, the wife of Ed. Talbert of Hastings, Nebraska; and Irene, who is at home.

For many years Mr. Pine was a stanch republican but in later life became a supporter of the populist faction. In religious circles of Trumbull he played a prominent part, having assisted in the building of the Methodist church there, of which he became a trustee. He was active in civic affairs as a member of the school board and while residing in Illinois served as road overseer. Practically his entire life was devoted to farming and only by his own industry and diligence did he achieve his success. His death left a void in the community which will be hard to fill for he was widely acknowledged a self-made man and a representative citizen.

JOHN N. BROCK

No man is to be commended specially for having lived a goodly number of years, but if he has made those years count in worthy achievement and has exemplified the character and the powers that make for usefulness as a man among men, then he is entitled to definite tribute and honor when the shadows of his life begin to lengthen toward the golden west. Judge John N. Brock of Giltner, Hamilton county, has been a resident of this county nearly half a century and is now one of the county's most venerable and honored pioneer citizens, his being the distinction also of having given gallant service as a soldier of the Union in the Civil war. His loyalty at that period of the nation's history has been equalled by that which he has exemplified in all of the relations of his long and useful career.

Judge Brock, who has served continuously as justice of the peace or police judge in Hamilton county since 1882, claims the old Empire state as the place of his nativity and is a scion of a family whose name has been linked with American history for many generations. He was born at Cuba, New York, on the 19th of November, 1838, and is a son of David and Elizabeth (Pittsly) Brock. He was about five years old when his parents removed to Erie, Pennsylvania, in 1843, and two years later he accompanied them on the journey to Grant county, Wisconsin. There his father purchased a tract of government land, for eighty acres of which he paid at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, and for the remaining eighty acres he paid fifty cents per acre. The entire tract was covered with a heavy growth of timber and in the little log house which the father constructed on the embryonic farm was the home in which the subject of



MR. AND MRS. JOHN N. BROCK

this review was reared to adult age. Under the conditions and influences that marked the pioneer period in the history of that section of the Badger state, Mr. Brock progressed mentally and physically, and he recalls with pleasing memory that he attended school in a little schoolhouse of log construction, with slab benches and other primitive accessories. He walked nearly two miles back and forth from his home to pursue his studies in this pioneer school and did not fail to make good use of the advantages there afforded. As a young man he was for two years employed on a dairy farm in Wisconsin and then learned the miller's trade, to which he there continued to give his time and attention for seven years. When the Civil war broke out Mr. Brock did not long restrain his patriotic ardor, for in August, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company B, Twenty-third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. After serving about one year with this regiment he was honorably discharged on account of physical disability, but in October, 1864, he was again able to enter the nation's service, and enlisted in Company G, forty-seventh Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which he was assigned to duty in guarding railroads between Chattanooga and Nashville, Tennessee. He also served as drill sergeant and remained with his regiment until the close of the war. Thereafter he continued his residence in Wisconsin until 1875, when, accompanied by his wife and their four children, he set forth with team and wagon on the long overland journey to Nebraska. In making preliminary provision for the new home in the pioneer community he brought with him five head of cattle and upon arrival in Hamilton county he settled one-half mile west of the present village of Giltner. Here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land, built a small house of combined frame and sod construction and girded himself for the work and responsibilities of a pioneer farmer. The village of Giltner had not then been established and he did most of his early trading at Hastings and Grand Island. He brought much of his land under cultivation, continued to make improvements on the place and, like other settlers, met loss through drought and grasshopper visitations, besides facing the many other trials and perplexities common to the pioneers of the locality and period.

Judge Brock remained on his farm until 1885, when he removed to the village of Giltner, where he has since maintained his residence and where he is giving characteristically efficient service as police judge, his original commission as justice of the peace having been received by him in 1882, while he was still living on his farm and he has continued as a magistrate in this county during the intervening years. A stalwart supporter of the republican party Judge Brock cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln and he is known as a resourceful and ardent advocate of the principles of the party which has enlisted his allegiance during his entire mature life. He has been affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic, being a member of the post at Giltner until its enrollment became so diminished that the organization was permitted to lapse. He has been affiliated with the Masonic fraternity since 1882 and his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

On the 19th of November, 1861, was solemnized the marriage of Judge Brock to Miss Adelaide Bailey, and not until after they had celebrated their golden wedding anniversary were these ties severed by the death of Mrs. Brock,

who passed to eternal rest in the year 1912, she having been a zealous member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of their eight children four are living. In 1915 Judge Brock was united in marriage to Hannah E. Bellairs and she is the popular presiding genius of their pleasant home in the village of Giltner.

Judge Brock became a member of the school board of his district in Union township, this county, in 1877, and after removing to Giltner served many years as a member of the local school board. He also held for several years the position of chairman of the village board of Giltner.

JOHN HOMER GROSVENOR

John Homer Grosvenor, who has made the practice of law his life work and has been a representative of the bar of Aurora since June, 1898, has done much to maintain the legal and moral status of his community, being an able representative of that profession which stands as a firm conservator of justice and the safeguard of the rights and privileges of the individual. Mr. Grosvenor was born on a farm in York county, Nebraska, April 5, 1873, his parents being George W. and Caroline Grosvenor. The father was born at Mansfield, Richland county, Ohio, and was a son of John Grosvenor and a grandson of Richard Allen Grosvenor, who came from England to the new world, settling in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. The ancestral line in England can be traced back to the time of William the Conqueror, for the family is one of the oldest of the "Merrie Isle." The present head of the English family is the Duke of Westminster and only a limited number of the family is to be found within the United States. George Washington Grosvenor had reached early manhood when the Civil war was inaugurated and joined Company A of the Third Iowa Cavalry, serving through the four years of hostilities from 1861 until 1865. He married Caroline Leach, who was born near Wheeling, West Virginia, and both saw much of the pioneer life as represented in the log cabin and sod house experiences of the frontier in Ohio, Iowa and Nebraska.

John H. Grosvenor pursued his early education in the common schools of Hamilton county, Nebraska, and afterward attended the Fremont Normal College, now the Midland College, from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Pedagogy in 1896. In preparation for a career at the bar he entered the College of Law of the University of Nebraska and completed his course by graduation in 1898, at which time the LL. B. degree was conferred upon him. In his youthful days his experiences were those of the farm bred boy and in young manhood his time was divided between teaching and college work. Subsequent to his graduation from the State University he entered immediately upon the practice of law in Aurora, where he has since continued. As the years have passed he has been accorded a large clientage of an important character and enjoys an enviable reputation by reason of the thoroughness and precision with which he prepares his cases and the clearness and logic with which he presents his cause before the courts. The story of his progression is the record of perseverance and determination and wise use of the talents with which nature endowed him. After practicing for a few

years he became city attorney for Aurora and later filled the position of county attorney of Hamilton county. Subsequent to that period he was chairman of the special tax commission of the state in 1913 and 1914 and he enjoyed a large general law practice until April, 1916, when he was appointed postmaster of Aurora and concentrated his attentions in large measure to the duties of that position. From early manhood he has manifested a deep and conscientious interest in the affairs of state and has exerted not a little influence over the public thought and action, especially along political lines.

Mr. Grosvenor was originally a member of the people's independent party and later joined the democratic party. He served as state chairman of the people's party in 1911-12. In 1897 he was elected to represent the forty-first district of Nebraska in the house of representatives and remained a member thereof for four years or until 1901 and during that period was in 1899 the caucus chairman of the Fusion forces. His service as county attorney extended from 1907 until 1911 and as chairman of the special tax commission from 1913 until 1915, while on the 16th of April, 1916, he was appointed postmaster. For many terms he has acted as city attorney for Aurora and has also been a member of the board of the insane commission of Hamilton county for many years.

At Bostwick, Nebraska, on the 15th of June, 1904, Mr. Grosvenor was married to Miss Florence White, a daughter of the late Captain Arthur W. and Lora Josephine White of Nuckolls county, Nebraska. Mrs. Grosvenor's father was a well known veteran of the Civil war and acted as one of the personal bodyguard of Abraham Lincoln. His wife was well known as an artist in oils, china and water colors. Both have now passed away, their remains resting in the Aurora cemetery. To Mr. and Mrs. Grosvenor have been born seven children: Grace Florence, Josephine Caroline, John Homer, Jr., George Arthur, Hannah White, Gertrude Helen, and Ruth Louise. The education of their children is one of the foremost ambitions of the parents.

Mr. Grosvenor belongs to several fraternal organizations, being a Mason, an Odd Fellow, a Knight of Pythias, an Elk, a Highlander and also a member of the Woodmen and of the Workmen lodges. He was formerly great sachem of the Improved Order of Red Men in Nebraska and has made many fraternal addresses on various occasions. He is identified with Commercial and Golf clubs and is a life member of the Hamilton County Agricultural Association. He has earnestly championed the cause of the Young Men's Christian Association and of the Salvation Army and is interested in all those forces which make for higher ideals of life and for advanced standards of citizenship.

JUDGE WILLIAM FREDERICK JEFFERS

William Frederick Jeffers, familiarly known as "Fred" Jeffers, who since 1911 has been judge of the county court of Hamilton county, is a representative of a family that was of English origin but was established in America in the seventeenth century. The grandfather, Elijah Jeffers, was born in Ohio. The father, William P. Jeffers, was a native of Clermont county, Ohio, and in Pike

county, Illinois, to which he removed in 1837, he was married to Miss Martha Potter whose birth occurred in Adams county, Illinois. Her father was David Potter who removed to that state in the '30s and settled upon a farm, spending his remaining days there. William P. Jeffers devoted his life to farming and fruit raising in Illinois for many years and in 1884 came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, purchasing land seven miles southwest of Aurora. There was nothing on the farm at that time but a barn and granary but with characteristic energy he began improvements and erected a frame house in the midst of a cornfield. As the years passed he continued the work of development and became the owner of an excellent farm property, upon which he and his wife spent their remaining days. They were the parents of fourteen children, three of whom died in Illinois in infancy. Nine of the family are living: Mrs. Mary A. Starks, residing in Wyoming; Jennie, the wife of N. S. Cole, living on a farm near Aurora; Thomas P., a resident farmer of the state of Washington; Mrs. Emma Fye, whose home is near Aurora; William F.; Etta, the wife of Omer Auten, occupying a homestead in Arizona; Warren, who resides on the old home farm in Hamilton county; Alta, the wife of J. E. Rolstin who has retired from business and is located in Aurora; and Nellie, who is a nurse in Los Angeles, California. The parents were consistent members of the United Brethren church and Mr. Jeffers gave his political allegiance in later years to the democratic party. He won a fair measure of success and was highly esteemed in the community in which he made his home.

William Frederick Jeffers attended common schools in Illinois and Nebraska and also pursued his education in York College. He afterward took up the profession of teaching, which he followed successfully for seven years and was then called to public office, being elected clerk of the circuit court in 1899, again in 1903 and for a third term in 1907, so that he occupied the office altogether for twelve years. In 1911 he was elected county judge and by reelection has continued on the bench to the present time. He was also city clerk of Aurora for one year, was councilman for two terms and has been an active figure in politics for twenty-one years, never being defeated for office throughout this entire period. He is a democrat in politics.

On the 14th of February, 1900, Mr. Jeffers was married to Miss Jennie M. Will, a daughter of N. B. and Alice (Ferguson) Will, who were natives of Pennsylvania but removed to York county in pioneer times, the father securing a homestead claim. Here he passed away in York county. Mrs. Jeffers taught school in York and Hamilton county for eleven years and is recognized as a lady of liberal culture. By her marriage she has become the mother of five children: Marie, who is now teaching in the country schools of Hamilton county; Madge, a pupil in the tenth grade; Kenneth; Marthena and William J., all yet in school.

Judge and Mrs. Jeffers are members of the United Brethren church, while both have taken an active part in the various branches of church work. Two years ago Judge Jeffers was a delegate to the General Conference of the World, held in Topeka, Kansas. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and the Royal Highlanders. Judge Jeffers started out on his own resources in early life. He has always been self-reliant and progressive and now devotes his entire attention to the important

duties of the office which he is filling. He has studied law extensively and the fact that he has been continuous on the county bench for a decade is a proof of the fairness and impartiality of his decisions.

JOHN NISSEN

In the vigorous contingent of successful farmers to be found in Otis township, Hamilton county, a place of prominence and pioneer distinction is to be accorded to John Nissen, who has here maintained his residence for nearly half a century and whose prosperity has been in keeping with that which has marked the general development and progress of this now favored section of Nebraska.

Mr. Nissen was born in Denmark, on the 31st of October, 1849, is indebted to the schools of his native land for his youthful education, and there also he gained his initial experience in connection with farm enterprise. In 1871, shortly after attaining to his legal majority, he severed the home ties and set forth to seek his fortunes in the United States. For the first two years he was employed at farm work in the state of Illinois, and in 1873, in company with his brother, A. B., and their mutual friend, Mat Mattsen, he came by train to Seward, Nebraska, and thence overland to Hamilton county, where he took up a homestead of eighty acres and a timber claim of equal area. On this unbroken prairie land in Otis township he constructed a little sod house of the most primitive pioneer type which met the requirements and became the abode of happiness and good cheer. The township had but few settlers at the time when Mr. Nissen here established his home, but the following spring brought in a goodly number. Not a tree was visible from the little sod house in which Mr. Nissen lived. His brother had also taken up land in this locality and had become the owner of a team of horses. John Nissen depended upon an ox team principally in the breaking of his land and in the meanwhile gained a full quota of pioneer experience, including the obtaining of fuel from trees along the Platte river, the hunting of antelopes, deer and other wild game and the frequent visits of Indians, who, however, never caused him any trouble. In 1874 he saw his growing crops eaten up by grasshoppers and a similar visitation worked even greater havoc in the season of 1876. Losses through drought likewise became his portion, but in a general way the years did not fail in tribute and increasing prosperity attended his earnest activities in connection with agricultural and live stock enterprise. He became the owner of four hundred and sixty acres of the excellent land of Hamilton county which he brought to a high standard in the matter of buildings and productiveness. He has now divided his land to a large extent among his children but still retains and resides upon his fine old homestead, which is endeared to him by many pleasing memories and associations.

In 1879 Mr. Nissen was united in marriage to Miss Helena Green and the supreme loss and bereavement in his life came when his devoted companion and helpmeet was summoned to eternal rest in 1918, at the age of seventy years. She bore with fortitude and graciousness the trials and reverses of the pioneer days and her gentle personality gained for her the affectionate regard of all who

came within the sphere of her influence. She is survived by her husband and four children. The children are: Eric, who is a progressive farmer of Hamilton county; and Otto, Elsie and Marie remain at home, the younger son having active management of the home farm.

Mr. Nissen is a man of well fortified opinions and convictions, is a republican in politics, is a loyal and liberal citizen and is a communicant of the Danish Lutheran church, as was also his wife.

JOHN BOAG

It required courage and self-reliance of high order when the early settlers of Nebraska essayed the task of reclaiming the virgin prairies to the uses of civilization, for there were many obstacles to be overcome, adverse conditions to be considered and many hardships and privations to be endured. The pioneers of Hamilton county were in general men of sturdy physical powers, resolute purpose and high ambition and thus were fortified for the important tasks to which they set themselves. Among the number was the sterling Scotsman, John Boag, who has exemplified in all of the stages of his career the fine traits of character for which the sons of Scotland are invariably known.

Mr. Boag was born in Perthshire, Scotland, in the year 1848, was reared on a farm and was but twelve years of age when he began to earn his own living, his compensation for his labors having been about thirty dollars a year in the early stages of his independent career. At intervals he was enabled to attend the schools of his native land and there he remained until 1869, when at the age of nineteen years he immigrated to America. During the summer of that first year he found employment at farm work in the Province of Ontario, Canada, and in the autumn of 1869 he proceeded to Dane county, Wisconsin, where he remained two years and worked as a farm hand near Madison, the capital of the state. On his salary of two hundred dollars a year he saved enough to enable him to buy a team of horses and a wagon, as well as a small supply of requisite household effects, and in the year 1871, in company with his brothers, William and David, he made the long overland trip to the state of Nebraska. Upon his arrival in Hamilton county Mr. Boag obtained a homestead of eighty acres in Union precinct and as a necessary preliminary he here provided a dwelling in the construction of a rude sod house of the primitive pioneer type and also a dugout stable in which to shelter his team. With characteristic vigor he carried forward the reclaiming and improving of his land, but lost his crops when the grasshopper invaders saw fit to make their disastrous visitations to this section of the state. He experienced losses also through droughts, was snowbound at the time of the memorable blizzard of 1873 and did not flinch from the various hardships which he faced with other pioneers. In comparison with present-day prices it is interesting to recall that when he hauled his early crops of grain to Grand Island he received payment for the same at the rate of seventy-five cents per bushel, for wheat. He gained as a hunter his share of prairie chickens, antelopes, deer and other wild game then plentiful in this section, and after remaining on his original homestead two years



MR. AND MRS. JOHN BOAG

he sold the property and purchased railroad land at five dollars per acre. His original purchase comprised one hundred and twenty acres of his present farm property, an additional tract of the same area having been purchased by him a little later. On this aggregate tract of two hundred and forty acres he has made the best of improvements, including good buildings and the setting out of shade trees and a nice apple orchard. His eventual success fully repaid him for all he endured in the early days, and he now lives "on the sunny side of the street," with gratifying prosperity as his portion and with secure place in the esteem of the people of the county to whose development he has contributed his quota. Mr. Boag has shown discrimination and progressiveness both as an agriculturist and stock raiser and in the live stock department of his farm industry he gives preference to red polled cattle and Poland China hogs. He utilizes forty-five acres of his land for pasturage, devotes fifteen acres to alfalfa and the remainder of the place is given to the raising of wheat and corn.

In 1880 Mr. Boag was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Stewart, who likewise is a native of Scotland and who was fourteen years of age when she accompanied her parents to the United States, the family home having been established in Hamilton county, Nebraska, in 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Boag have six children: Jessie, John, Mary, Annie, Margaret and Roy.

The attractive homestead farm of the Boag family is situated in section 21, Scoville township, on one of the rural mail routes from the village of Giltner, and the home is pervaded by an atmosphere of generous hospitality and good cheer. In expressing his political convictions Mr. Boag takes an independent stand. He and his wife are earnest members of the Baptist church, in which he has served as a deacon.

JOHN A. SWANSON

Since 1910 John A. Swanson has engaged in the real estate business in Ong, Clay county, where he is recognized as a successful and representative citizen. He was born in Sweden on the 19th of December, 1862, a son of Swan Swanson and Asrina Swanson, also natives of that country. His father was a carpenter by trade and was well known in the community in which he made his home. The parents of Mr. Swanson never came to the United States but passed their lives in Sweden. Four children were born to their union, three of whom are living: Peter, a retired farmer of Loretta; John A., the subject of this review; and Tillie, who is the wife of F. J. Engdahl, a retired farmer of Ong. The religious faith of Mr. and Mrs. Swanson was that of the Lutheran church, in the activities of which they took a prominent part.

In May, 1880, John A. Swanson came to the United States and located in Dunbar, Nebraska, where he started farming. For nine years he worked out on farms and engaged in farming on his own account and then removed to Wilcox, where he was similarly employed for three years. At the end of that time, in 1893, he located in Clay county, and there purchased eighty acres of land whereon he lived for a number of years. He brought his land to a high state of cultivation and was recognized as a successful and progressive agriculturist. In 1910, how-

ever, he moved into Ong and established a real estate business, in which line he has continued. He deals mostly in lands in west Nebraska and Colorado, and the honorable principles on which he conducts his business have won for him an extensive trade.

In 1916 Mr. Swanson was united in marriage to Josie L. Gustes, the widow of A. R. Rudd. She was born in Henry county, Illinois, a daughter of John Gustes, an early settler of Fillmore county. He was a homesteader in that county and also a veteran of the Civil war.

The political allegiance of Mr. Swanson has always been given to the republican party and it is well known that he is a stalwart champion of any cause which it espouses. His religious faith is that of the Methodist church and fraternally he is identified with the Odd Fellows, which he has served as Noble. The success that Mr. Swanson enjoys is the result of his own grim determination and labor, for he had practically nothing when he came to the United States. A brother paid his passage over and when he arrived in Nebraska City he had but two dollars to his name. Thrown upon his own resources at an early age he learned his lessons in the school of experience and his life illustrates that it is under the pressure of adversity and the stimulus of necessity that the strongest and best in men is brought out and developed.

CHRISTOPHER C. COON

Christopher C. Coon is living retired at Aurora but for many years was closely associated with farming interests and through his activity and enterprise in business won the success that now enables him to rest from further labor. Moreover, he came to Nebraska in pioneer times and is familiar with the early history of the state with all of its hardships and privations incident to the settlement of the frontier. He rejoices in what has been accomplished and has borne his full share in bringing about modern day progress and improvement. Mr. Coon was born in Knox county, Ohio, June 24, 1847, a son of Chauncy S. and Olive (Hurd) Coon, both of whom were natives of New York, in which state they were reared and married. Two of their children were born ere they left New York to become residents of Ohio. The father was a carpenter and followed his trade for many years in the Buckeye state. In 1860 he went to Michigan and both he and his wife died there. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Coon gave his political support to the republican party. The family numbered eight children, of whom four are living: Christopher C.; Melvina, who is now the wife of George Trayor of Michigan; W. T., also living in Michigan; and Mrs. Calista Russell of the same state.

Christopher C. Coon was a youth of thirteen years when the family home was established in Michigan where he continued his education in the public school, having previously entered upon his studies in Ohio. When still quite young he started out to earn his own living by working by the month on farms in that section. He afterwards turned his attention to the carpenter's trade which he followed in Michigan for a number of years. On the 5th of April, 1871, he ar-

rived in Hamilton county, Nebraska, and here homesteaded the south half of the southwest quarter of section 2, township 10, range 6, thus obtaining eighty acres of land. He built thereon a shanty ten feet square with a dirt floor and dirt roof.

It was in June, 1873, that Mr. Coon married Miss Mary Kutch who was born in Indiana, a daughter of Nelson Kutch who came to Hamilton county when it was a largely undeveloped and unsettled district and here homesteaded. He was a well known pioneer and continued an honored resident of the county to the advanced age of eighty-four years when he was called to his final rest. To Mr. and Mrs. Coon have been born five children: Glenn, who conducts a lumber-yard at Hastings, Nebraska; A. B., who is connected with the shoe department of the Herckenshimer Store in Lincoln, Nebraska; Charles J., a farmer and fruit grower of Idaho; Merle, who is connected with the dray business in Aurora; and Olive, the wife of C. C. Firth who is connected with the Burlington Railroad.

It was soon after the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Coon that they took up their abode on the old homestead in the little shanty which he had built. When he first came to the state he drove with a team to Lincoln, Nebraska, and there made a payment of fourteen dollars on his homestead, spent seventy cents, and returned with fifty cents which constituted his entire capital. He had a bedstead and went to the creek to cut poles in order to make the frame work on which to lay a bed. He also had a small stove which he had borrowed, while a large tool-chest which he brought from Michigan served for a table. Two nail-kegs were used for chairs and thus in the most primitive style the young couple began their domestic life on the homestead which he had secured. There are many experiences of frontier life in Nebraska which Mr. Coon will never forget. On the 13th day of April, 1873—Easter Sunday—there was a storm that will ever live in the memories of those who were in this section of the state at the time. Mr. Coon went to see his future wife on that day, wearing a light coat. He started home late in the evening and had gone but a short distance when it began to snow and blow. It was with the utmost difficulty that he reached the home of a neighbor where he remained through the night, it being impossible to proceed farther. The next day it seemed equally impossible to go on, but his brother-in-law was ill and Mr. Coon became anxious about him, so he started out for his house a mile away and it was two o'clock in the afternoon before he reached the barn at his place. The house was entirely covered with snow but he managed at length to effect an entrance. The storm lasted until Wednesday, this being the hardest storm within the memory of people living in Hamilton county. In the early days there were many antelopes in the region and game of all kinds was very plentiful. In 1874 the Indians drove seven buffaloes into the county when engaged in a hunt which had begun further west. Mr. Coon resided on his homestead until 1882 when he removed to Aurora where he has since lived. Here he took up carpenter work and followed his trade for a number of years. Through his industry, economy and diligence in his business affairs Mr. Coon met with a fair measure of success, so that he is now able to live retired and enjoy the comforts of life, owning town property from which he derives a good income. Great, indeed, have been the changes which have occurred since he arrived in Nebraska. There was not a building in Aurora when he came in April, 1871, and it was not until the following October

that the first building was put up, so that he has witnessed the entire growth and development of the city in which he now resides.

In 1917 Mr. Coon was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife who passed away on the 23d of December, of that year. She was a consistent member of the Christian church, to which Mr. Coon also belonged and for twenty-six years he has been a member of the Modern Woodmen. In politics he is a republican and while interested in the success of the party he has never aspired to office. There is no one who can speak with greater authority upon the history of the county than this honored pioneer, Christopher C. Coon.

HENRY C. LITTLER

Pioneer experience came to the late Henry C. Littler both in Iowa and Nebraska and in all of the relations of a long and useful life he exemplified the high spirit of loyalty and personal stewardship which marked his service as a gallant young soldier of the Union in the Civil war. He was born in Ohio in the year 1836 and was one of the venerable and honored pioneer citizens of Hamilton county, Nebraska, at the time of his death, on the 19th of December, 1912.

The pioneer schools of Illinois and Iowa were the medium through which Mr. Littler gained the early education that was to be the basis of a broad superstructure of knowledge to be reared through wide and varied experience in connection with the practical affairs of a busy and useful life. In Iowa he found employment at farm work, as he also did after his return to Illinois, of which latter state he was a resident at the beginning of the Civil war. In response to President Lincoln's first call for volunteers Mr. Littler promptly tendered his services in defense of the Union by enlisting in 1861 as a corporal in the Sixty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and he was discharged as a sergeant, his service continuing until the close of the war and involving his active participation in many major battles and minor engagements. At Harper's Ferry he was captured by the enemy and for some time thereafter was held as a prisoner of war. His exchange was finally effected and he rejoined his regiment, with which he remained until victory crowned the Union arms and the war came to an end, his honorable discharge being received by him in the city of Chicago.

After the close of the war Mr. Littler engaged in farm work, sawmill operation and railroad work in Illinois, and in that state the year 1867 recorded his marriage to Miss Emeline Laird, who was there born and reared. In 1874, traveling overland in an old-time "prairie schooner," Mr. and Mrs. Littler came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, five weeks being required to complete the journey. They arrived at their destination on the 9th of October, having utilized ferry-boats in crossing both the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Mr. Littler took up a homestead of sixty-nine acres of raw prairie land in Deepwell precinct and here he and his wife had as their first habitation a dugout of the most primitive pioneer type, having one small window and a dirt floor until a board floor could be installed. They resided here for two years and then removed to a slab shanty, sixteen by twenty-four feet in dimensions and covered with tar paper, the lumber for the house having been hauled

by team from Hastings. The hardships and trials of the pioneer days did not dishearten Mr. and Mrs. Littler, for they were hopeful of what the future had in store and were ready to work and endure until success came to them. Mr. Littler broke his land and made it available for cultivation, planted an orchard and gradually made other improvements, his orchard, however, having died out without giving returns for the labor and money expended. For three years after coming to the pioneer farm Mr. Littler had no surplus crops to sell, but the lean years were in due course followed by those of plentiful harvest and attending prosperity and advancement. He became one of the substantial farmers and valued and influential citizens of the county and here remained on his farm until 1905, when he and his wife removed to Phillips, where he lived practically retired until his death and where Mrs. Littler still maintains her home. He also had eighty acres of land in Hall county. He was a stalwart republican and was affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic, his religious faith having been that of the Methodist church. His widow is a zealous member of the Christian church.

Mr. and Mrs. Littler were the parents of the following children: Melvin, associated with the manufacture of beet sugar in the city of Denver, Colorado; Edward, a railroad man, who resides in the state of Washington; Alice, the wife of Luther Wilson, employed in shipyards in the state of Oregon; Frank, who has the active management of the old home farm; Otis, a barber in the city of Omaha; and Laura, who died at the age of twenty-nine years. Mrs. Littler's memory compasses most of the period of development and progress in Hamilton county and in retrospect the pioneer days are replete with pleasing recollections, while she rests secure in the companionship and high regard of friends who are tried and true, many of whom shared with her the experiences of the pioneer period of Hamilton county history.

FERDINAND GRIESS, D. D. S.

Dr. Ferdinand Griess is one of the successful dentists engaged in business in Sutton, in which town he was born and he is regarded as one of the highly respected and enterprising citizens of that place. His birth occurred on the 5th of November, 1883, his parents being Peter H. and Sophia (Grosshans) Griess, extended mention of whom is made in the sketch of C. H. Griess to be found on another page of this work.

Dr. Ferdinand Griess received his education in the Sutton schools and then for two years engaged in the coal business for his father. He saved enough of his earnings to enable him to complete his education and decided upon the dental profession as a life work, with the result that he entered the dental department of the State University, receiving his degree in 1909. He then returned to his home in Sutton, where he commenced practice and has built up a most enviable and lucrative business.

On the 22d of June, 1910, Dr. Griess was married to Miss Georgia Shivers, a native of Lincoln, Nebraska. To this union two children have been born: Donald, who is six years of age; and Marjorie Jeanette, two years of age.

Since age conferred upon Dr. Griess the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party, having firm faith in the principles of that party as factors in good government. He is a consistent member of the German Reformed church, while his wife is a member of the Congregational church. Fraternally Dr. Griess is identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, having membership in the York Lodge, and he is likewise a member of Xi Psi Phi, a college fraternity. In the line of his profession he has been a member of the Nebraska State Dental Board for five years. Dr. Griess has always been active in the civic affairs of the community and for many years has been a member of the Sutton school board, which he is now serving as secretary. He is the owner of some fine land in Clay county and as a result of his extensive practice is financially independent. Since opening his office in Sutton for the practice of his profession Dr. Griess has devoted his entire attention to his work and is regarded as one of the most skilful and popular members of his profession in the state.

CHARLES A. PEMBROOK

A prominent and well known citizen of Harvard is Charles Pembrook, who for eighteen years carried a rural route in Clay county and also for a number of years was prominent in the agricultural development of the community. He is now making his home in Harvard, where he has been residing retired since August 20, 1920. Charles A. Pembrook was born in Ottawa, La Salle county, Illinois, on the 4th of May, 1846, a son of David and Mary (Reynolds) Pembrook, both natives of New York state. His grandfather was Enos Pembrook, a native of England and about whom it is said in the History of Ottawa, Illinois: "A notable arrival in 1825 was Enos Pembrook. He had previously lived in Alton, having come to that place from New York state. He came to Ottawa, May 1, 1825, and settled on a section in the eastern part of the township, where he lived with his wife until his death, which occurred in 1832. He served in the Indian war, and after his death, his wife received a pension." The parents of Charles A. Pembrook went to Illinois from their native state when young people and the father had the distinction of being one of the first boys to locate in Ottawa. David Pembrook received his education in the schools of Illinois and made a trip up the river from Alton to Ottawa, in company with two Indians. He later in life engaged in farming and became one of the leading agriculturists in the community in which he resided. Eleven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Pembrook, eight now living, of whom our subject is the only one residing in Nebraska. He was the fourth in order of birth in the family. Mr. and Mrs. Pembrook were active and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he always gave his allegiance to the republican party.

Charles A. Pembrook is indebted to the schools of Illinois for his education. In 1863 he volunteered his services to the Union army and enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war. He participated in the important battles of that conflict, was in the Atlanta campaign, with Sherman on his march to the sea,



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES A. PEMBROOK

and in July, 1865, received his honorable discharge at Chicago. He then returned to Illinois, where he took up farming and there remained until 1886, when he came to Nebraska and located in Clay county. He bought a farm, which he later lost, and then rented land until 1902, when he moved into Harvard and engaged in delivering mail on a rural mail route for eighteen years. As a result of his diligence and determined effort, Mr. Pembrook became financially independent and on the 20th of August, 1920, he retired from active life.

In 1868 occurred the marriage of Mr. Pembrook and Miss Hortense Soule, a native of New York and a daughter of Louis and Angeline (Stuck) Soule, also natives of that state. On the paternal side, she is of English descent, one ancestor of the family, George Soule, having come from England in the Mayflower. Her grandfather, Enos Soule, was a native of New York and her maternal grandfather, John Stuck, was born in Germany. In 1856 Mr. and Mrs. Soule went to Illinois, where they resided until death. Six children were born to them, five of whom are living, Mrs. Pembrook being the only one residing in Nebraska. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Pembrook six children have been born: Ella, the widow of Ed F. King, a former traveling salesman, resides in Harvard; E. E., foreman in a railroad shop at South Sioux City; William E., who is engineer on the Burlington and resides at South Sioux City; Grace, the widow of James Hennessey, makes her home at Lincoln; Herbert, a mechanic at Harvard; and Ralph is a civil engineer and has traveled extensively in the United States and in South America. He participated in the World war and received the commission of first lieutenant, and at the close of that conflict returned with the rank of captain. He was active at Argonne and was gassed at St. Mihiel.

The political allegiance of Mr. Pembrook is given to the republican party in the interests of which he takes an active part. His religious faith is that of the Christian church and he has membership in the Grand Army of the Republic and has been commander of his post. Obstacles and difficulties in his path have seemed but to serve as an impetus for renewed effort on his part and his persistent labor has enabled him ultimately to win a place among the prosperous residents of Clay county.

FREDERICK C. MATHER

Frederick C. Mather, now a retired hardware merchant living in Aurora, was born in Michigan, February 22, 1856, his parents being Frederick and Angeline (Carver) Mather, the former a native of Ohio, while the latter was born in Connecticut. The paternal grandfather, Don C. Mather, was a native of Boston, Ohio, or rather he was born on the site of Boston, which town was founded by himself and his brother and has since become a part of Akron, Ohio. The father of Angeline Carver was William Carver, who was born in Connecticut, where he followed the occupation of farming for many years and in old age removed to Michigan, where his last days were spent. The marriage of Frederick Mather and Angeline Carver was celebrated in Indiana, to which state they had removed in early life. In

1836 Mr. Mather became a resident of Michigan, where he took up the occupation of farming and he and his wife continued to make their home in this state throughout their remaining days. He had homesteaded forty acres of land which he secured as a government claim and which remained in his possession to the time of his death. He had brought a log chain from Ohio to Michigan and used this in breaking up the ground with an ox-team. He passed through all of the hardships and privations of pioneer life and by his labors contributed to the upbuilding and progress of the community in which he settled. He voted with the republican party and both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They were the parents of three children: Frederick of this review; Frank, who was engaged in the hardware business for a number of years at Milford, Nebraska, where he passed away in July, 1920; and May, the wife of Lewis R. Taylor, who was the owner of a telephone system for a number of years and is now extensively engaged in farming at Angola, Indiana.

Frederick C. Mather obtained a district school education and afterward attended academies in Indiana, thus completing his preparation for life's practical and responsible duties. When not busy with his textbooks he gave his attention to farming and teaching school until he reached the age of twenty-two years and had also clerked in a store in Orland, Indiana, on Saturdays, this bringing him his initial experience along mercantile lines. It was in 1880 that he arrived in Aurora, Nebraska, where he established a hardware store on the 20th of January, 1881, opening his stock of goods in a little room sixteen by twenty-two feet. As the years passed he built up a nice business and increased his stock as the demands of his trade warranted. Naturally from time to time he was obliged to seek more commodious quarters and as the years passed he became owner of two stores and had a half interest in still another. He thus ranked with the leading hardware merchants of his section of the state and continued actively in the business until 1907 when he sold his store and is now living retired in the enjoyment of well earned rest. In 1880 he had erected a large two-story building in which he continued to the time in which he sold his hardware stock. He disposed of the building to the First National Bank in 1918.

On the 1st of October, 1878, Mr. Mather was married to Miss Alice Sears, a native of Sandwich, Illinois, and a daughter of Archibald and Rachael (Carver) Sears, the former a native of the state of New York, while the latter was from Connecticut. Removing westward they settled in Illinois and there the death of Mr. Sears occurred, while Mrs. Sears made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Mather to the time of her death. Three sons have been born to this marriage: Merle S., an electrician of Aurora, who was graduated from the Aurora high school and also from the Nebraska State University; Orion, who was graduated from the Aurora high school, the State University and Harvard University, is now financial editor on the Chicago Tribune; Roy F. is associate editor of the Los Angeles Herald of Los Angeles, California. He, too, was educated in the high school and in the State University.

Mr. Mather is a Mason, loyally following the teachings and purposes of the craft. In politics he is a republican and has served on the school board and as a member of the city council. He and his wife now spend the winter months in California, thus enjoying the milder climate of the Pacific coast. Progressiveness,

diligence and constructive methods in business won for Mr. Mather a very substantial competence, so that he and his wife are able to enjoy all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. The most envious cannot grudge them their prosperity so honorably has it been won and so worthily used, and, moreover, throughout his active business career Mr. Mather contributed, in large measure, to the commercial development and upbuilding of city and county.

PETER J. REFSHAUGE

Peter J. Refshauge, secretary and treasurer of the First Trust Company of Aurora, was born on the 14th of June, 1886, in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and is a brother of J. J. Refshauge, cashier of the First National Bank, in connection with whose sketch on another page of this work is found extended reference to the family.

Peter J. Refshauge obtained his education in the schools of Cedar Falls, passing through consecutive grades to his graduation from the high school. He was born and reared on a farm and through vacation periods his time was largely devoted to the work of the fields. In fact his opportunity to attend school largely came in the winter season, while in the spring he took his place as an assistant in the work of plowing and planting. In 1906 Mr. Refshauge arrived in Davey, Nebraska, and became associated with his brother in a bank. While thus engaged he pursued a course in bookkeeping in Lincoln, Nebraska, and in 1907 removed to Marquette where he accepted the position as bookkeeper in the First National Bank, continuing to occupy that position for a year. He next went to Rutland, South Dakota, where he purchased a bank, which he conducted until May, 1909. He then removed to Hordville, Nebraska, and made investment in the First State Bank of that place, but sold his interest there in September, 1918, and came to Aurora where he aided in organizing the First Trust Company, and became secretary and treasurer. Through the intervening period he has acted in this capacity and his previous banking experience and his knowledge of financial matters well qualify him for the onerous and responsible duties that devolve upon him.

On the 10th of May, 1911, Mr. Refshauge was married to Miss Elfreda Hansen, a daughter of the Rev. L. Hansen of Davey, Nebraska, a Lutheran minister who engaged in preaching in this state for a quarter of a century but is now living retired, making his home at Davey. Mr. and Mrs. Refshauge have become the parents of a daughter, Adelaide, eight years of age. Mr. Refshauge is a member of the Lutheran church and has attained the thirty-second degree in Masonry, while with the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine he has crossed the sands of the desert. He also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Politically he is a republican and has served as a member of the school board and of the town board. He assisted materially in upbuilding and beautifying the town of Hordville and erected a fine residence there noted for its architecture and for the landscape gardening surrounding the home. He took up his abode at Hordville when the town was new and contributed in most substantial measure to its progress and improvement. He now devotes his entire attention to the First Trust Company, with which he has been identified since its organization.

This company is today conducting an extensive farm loan business and also has a large insurance department, both branches of the business constituting sources of substantial success.

O. O. BUCK

O. O. (Ole) Buck, editor of the Harvard Courier and executive secretary of the Nebraska Press Association, was born in DeWitt county, Illinois, November 19, 1871. An injury received when he was only five years old made it impossible for him to get but two years' schooling and rendered him a cripple for life. In spite of this handicap he studied at home and commenced teaching a country school when only seventeen years old.

August 8, 1894, Mr. Buck was married to Lilly M. Dewey of Cherry county, Nebraska. To this union five children were born: Frances, now Mrs. Frances Piatt, lives at Treynor, Iowa, where her husband is engaged in business. She has three children; Naomi is a student in the University of Nebraska, where she is specializing in journalism and expert accounting; three boys, Whitacre, Judah and Max, died in infancy.

After teaching four years the subject of this sketch became interested in newspaper work and gave up a position at fifty dollars a month to go into a newspaper office at six dollars a week. Since his marriage he has been engaged in newspaper work almost continuously. He was in the banking business one year and has had some experience in other lines. January 1, 1918, he took charge of the Harvard Courier as editor and manager, the paper being owned by a corporation. In February, 1919, he was elected secretary and field man of the Nebraska Press Association and has since devoted almost his entire time to the work of the association, but he still gives general supervision to the Courier and writes the editorial page. A column of paragraphs, under the heading "Buckshot," has gained much more than state wide reputation for the writer. His work for the state association has proven very successful and Nebraska country papers are now more closely organized and are getting more valuable results from their organization than is true of the papers of any other state in the Union.

WILLIAM PEETZKE

William Peetzke is one of the few remaining Civil war veterans and pioneer citizens of Nebraska. Born in Germany of poor parents he came to the new world and as a result of his own diligence and industry is now a wealthy man, retired from active life. He has many friends throughout Hamilton county and his word is as good as a "government bond," to quote his friends.

A native of Germany, William Peetzke was born there in the year 1835 and on the 13th of May, 1861, came to the United States and settled in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. There he obtained farm work, being employed by the month and remained in that connection until on the 13th of March, 1864, when he enlisted in the Union

army as a member of Company B, Thirty-seventh Wisconsin Infantry. He was in active service until he received his discharge in 1865. He then returned to Wisconsin and remained there until 1873, when he came to Nebraska and located in York county, buying a man's homestead right to one hundred and sixty acres. He engaged in general farming, overcame all of the obstacles of early pioneer life and soon became recognized as one of the most progressive and successful agriculturists in the community. He later bought some railroad land in Hamilton county and operated both farms. As a result of his success in his farming ventures Mr. Peetzke is financially independent and is residing retired in Hampton.

While residing in Wisconsin the marriage of Mr. Peetzke took place, Miss Augusta Zahn becoming his wife. To their union nine children were born, three of whom are living.

Mr. Peetzke is a consistent member of the Lutheran church and is a prominent member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic. He is a highly respected and representative citizen of Hampton and is justly entitled to that proud American title of self-made man.

P. J. MAUPIN

Since 1896 P. J. Maupin has engaged in the mercantile business in Stockham. He is one of the leading merchants of that place, giving strict attention to his business and universal satisfaction to his patrons. A native of Missouri he was born in Gasconade county, March 4, 1861, a son of Jacob and Rhoda (Holt) Maupin, both natives of that state. There the father engaged in farming and blacksmithing and was recognized as one of the progressive and substantial citizens of the county in which he made his home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Maupin passed away in the state of their nativity.

P. J. Maupin is indebted to the common schools of Missouri for his education. He remained under the parental roof until he became of age when he went to Texas and from there to Oklahoma, where he obtained work in logging camps. In 1884 he went to Kansas, where he worked on a farm for two years, at the termination of which time he came to Nuckolls county, Nebraska, where he engaged in the same line of work for a time. In 1888 he removed to Hamilton county and worked on the farm of F. M. Wilson for a while, then rented and bached for a couple of years, at the termination of that time going to California and Oregon. Subsequently in 1894 he returned to Hamilton county and worked on a farm until 1896 when he bought the store of William Stockham and has since that time been actively engaged in the conduct of a merchandise business.

In 1889 occurred the marriage of Mr. Maupin and Miss Berta May Rounds, a native of Iowa, and to them one son, Burtie J., was born. The son is now connected with his father in the mercantile business. Mrs. Maupin passed away on the 11th of April, 1891, and four years later Mr. Maupin was again wed, choosing Anna Martin for his wife. In the club and social circles of Stockham Mrs. Maupin is well known. She is also a consistent member of the Presbyterian church and active in all of the charitable interests of that organization.

In politics Mr. Maupin maintains an independent course, voting for the man without regard for party. He has never had desire for political preferment but devotes his entire time to the development of his business. He has, however, served on the town and school boards. Mr. Maupin is one of the progressive and up-to-date business men of the thriving city of Stockham. His store is known throughout the entire county and his patronage is widely distributed throughout that portion of the state.

H. M. HANSON

H. M. Hanson, engaged in the real estate and insurance business in Sutton, was born in Clay county, June 11, 1880, a son of Nels and Carrie Hanson, both natives of Denmark. Their marriage was celebrated in Sutton, where both had come at an early age. The father went to Illinois at an early date and worked on a farm until 1878 when he came to Nebraska, settling in Clay county. He acquired a homestead on his arrival, whereon he built a sod house in which he resided for a number of years. He later built a frame dwelling. In 1912 he and his wife removed to Sutton and there her death occurred in 1914. Mr Hanson is still making his home there. He has divided his land between his children, but maintains an interest until his death. Five children were born to that union: Mary, who is the wife of Ola Hanson and lives on a farm in Clay county; H. M., the subject of this review; G. W., who is engaged in the real estate business at Forsyth, Montana; Dora, who is the wife of Roy Johnson and is residing on her father's old homestead; and Anna, who is the wife of A. G. Anderson, a farmer in Clay county. Mr. Hanson has always been a stanch supporter of the democratic party and his religious faith is that of the Congregational church.

H. M. Hanson received his education in the country schools of Clay county and for two months attended the Sutton high school. After putting his text-books aside, he engaged in farming, renting land for five years, but in December of the year 1905, he removed to Sutton. He there engaged in the real estate and insurance business in January, 1906, and does both a local and immigration business. His insurance business is of extensive proportions for he handles all kinds of insurance. He still maintains an interest in agriculture, however, owning land in Clay and Hayes counties, Nebraska, some in Colorado and property in Lincoln. In all he is in possession of four thousand, four hundred acres of fine land.

On the 30th of June, 1900, Mr. Hanson was united in marriage to Miss Sina Holmes, a native of Chicago, Illinois, and a daughter of John A. Holmes, who came to Clay county in 1875 and rented land, later moving to his own farm, but eventually retired and died in Sutton in 1914. To Mr. and Mrs. Hanson nine children have been born: Roy, who graduated in 1920 from the Sutton high school; Alvin, Francis, Leslie, Reuben, Mabel, Merle and Mervin, all in school; and Ramona. Merle and Mervin are twins.

Mr. Hanson follows an independent course in politics, giving his support to the man rather than to any particular party. Fraternally he is a Knight



H. M. HANSON

of Pythias and an Odd Fellow and his religious faith is that of the Congregational church. For ten years he has been a member of the school board of Sutton and is now a member of the city council. Mr. Hanson was also a member of the township board for a number of terms. He has risen to a high place among the agriculturists and business men of the town and county. He is justly entitled to the proud American title of self-made man, for as a man of strong purpose he has carried to successful completion every undertaking.

SAMUEL FLETCHER

Samuel Fletcher, a retired farmer living at Edgar, Clay county, was born in Canada, November 5, 1849, a son of Samuel and Eliza (Lee) Fletcher, both natives of Ireland, where the father conducted a woolen mill. After fire destroyed his mill he and his wife came to the new world, locating in Canada where the father engaged in farming for eight or nine years. At the end of that time they removed to Illinois, rented land and there resided one year, then moved to Ogle county and died there. Three children were born to that union, two of whom are living: Mrs. Lizzie Page, who is making her home with the subject of this sketch; and Samuel, whose name initiates this review. The other son, Thomas, served in the Civil war from 1862 until its close. Throughout their lives Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and the political allegiance of Mr. Fletcher was always given to the republican party, in the interests of which he took an active part.

Samuel Fletcher received his education in the schools of Illinois, for the most part attending the Brooklyn school two and one-half miles from his homestead. After putting his textbooks aside he engaged in farming with his father but in 1871 left the parental roof and came to Clay county. He took up a homestead and from the timber secured along Blue river built a frame house, in which he resided for seven years. He then sold his homestead and purchased some land in Pope county, where he lived in a sod house for four and one-half years, subsequently he returned to Clay county and has since remained there. He has two hundred and forty acres of valuable land in the county, which he has acquired by his own determined effort.

In 1889 occurred the marriage of Mr. Fletcher and Miss Ella Jones, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Mark Jones, who went to Kansas, where he lived for a number of years. His death occurred on the homestead of his eldest daughter at Nelson, Nebraska. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher, nine children have been born: Effie, who is the wife of Claude Hungerford, a store and restaurant man of Grant; Carl, farming in Clay county; Clarence, a farmer of Idaho; Grace, the wife of Louie Bolding, operating an orange grove in California; Frank, a farmer of Nelson; Willard, a painter residing in California, who was in the World war eighteen months and in France the greater part of that time; Bertha, a school teacher of Portland, Oregon; Lloyd served in the navy from April, 1917, to March 4, 1919, and was on the Cyclops at the time it went down; and Donald, a resident of Santa Ana, California.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Fletcher the right of franchise he has given his support to the republican party, in the interests of which he has taken an active part. He is now living retired, enjoying the reward of years spent in diligence and industry. He owns considerable property, both in town and county, and his home is located on a five-acre tract. The life of Mr. Fletcher has indeed been a busy one, fraught with good for the community, and at the same time he has promoted his individual interests.

ANDREW GROSSHANS

The upbuilding of a city depends not so much upon the machinery of government nor even the men who occupy its public offices as upon those who are directing its business development and progress. In this connection, therefore, it is imperative that mention be made of Andrew Grosshans of the Grosshans Lumber Company, who is carrying on an extensive business in Aurora, Nebraska. He was born in Russia, November 1, 1867, and is a son of Christian and Margaret (Fritchle) Grosshans, who were also of Russian birth and came to the United States in 1873, settling six miles north of Sutton, Clay county, Nebraska. The father purchased railroad land at four dollars and a quarter per acre, becoming owner of a half section. Later he bought another half section at ten dollars per acre and as the years passed he accumulated a great amount of land, the careful cultivation and development of which made him a wealthy man. About 1908 he removed to Sutton and retired from active business. Both he and his wife died in that place. They were members of the German Reformed church and in political belief Mr. Grosshans was a republican. He served as school director, was a well educated man for his day and always kept thoroughly informed concerning the leading questions and interests of the times. He read extensively and could always support his position upon any vital question by intelligent argument. In business, too, he displayed marked capability and resourcefulness. He engaged extensively in the breeding of cattle, horses and sheep and at one time was devoting his attention largely to full-blooded shorthorn cattle. It was through his capable business methods, close application and industry that he became one of the prosperous men of his adopted county. To him and his wife were born ten children of whom eight are living: Andrew; Christian, who is practically living retired in Sutton, speculating occasionally in real estate; John C., who occupies a farm near Sutton; T. C., a ranchman living at North Platte, Nebraska; Henry P., who was formerly engaged in business with his brother Andrew but is now conducting a lumber-yard at Kimball, Nebraska; Johanna, the wife of Peter Schwartz, a retired farmer living at Sutton, Nebraska; Eugenie, the wife of Fred Unterseahr, a plumber of Sutton, Nebraska; and Martha, who also makes her home in Sutton.

Andrew Grosshans pursued his education in country schools, in the schools of Sutton and in a business college at Lincoln. He remained on the home farm until he reached the age of nineteen, dividing his time between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. He was not desirous of devoting his life to agricultural pursuits, however, and on reaching the age of nineteen left home and became connected with the lumber business in

Sutton in 1898. He was there identified with the Sutton Lumber Company for several years and in 1903 went to Kearney, Nebraska, where he engaged in the coal trade until 1905. In the latter year he removed to Aurora and purchased the lumber business of H. N. Bell which was incorporated with a capital stock of sixteen thousand dollars, but since then the capital stock has been increased to forty thousand dollars and the business is now under the incorporated name of the Grosshans Lumber Company. They conduct a general lumber and coal business and their trade has reached extensive and gratifying proportions. Mr. Grosshans is also interested in lumber and coal yards at Murphy, Nebraska, and also at Kimball. He became a yard man at the beginning of his connection with the lumber trade and through the intervening period has made steady progress, until he is now at the head of the profitable and growing business.

In 1892 Mr. Grosshans was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Harter, a native of Hamilton county and a daughter of Jacob Harter who arrived in this county in 1871, after which he homesteaded north of Blue River and lived there to the time of his death. Mrs. Harter went to France to visit the grave of her son who was killed in the late war and died on shipboard while returning home on the 30th of May, 1920. Mr. and Mrs. Grosshans became the parents of three daughters: Alma, who attended the high school of Aurora, was also graduated from the Doane College at Crete, and is now principal of the high school at Crete, Nebraska; Leota, who completed a high school course in Aurora, has been a music pupil at Grand Island and at Lincoln and is now teaching music and penmanship at Crete high school; and Marie, still attending school.

Mr. Grosshans and his wife are members of the Congregational church and he belongs also to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Highlanders. He has passed through all of the chairs in the Odd Fellows Lodge and is now chancellor commander of the Knights of Pythias. In politics he is a republican and has served as a member of the city council and also as mayor of Aurora, while at Sutton he occupied the office of city treasurer for one term. He made an excellent public official by the prompt and capable manner in which he discharged his duties and at all time he is interested in everything that pertains to the general welfare, lending his aid and cooperation to all movements toward the public good and progress of the community. His own life history should serve to encourage and inspire others, showing what could be accomplished through individual effort and proving that success and an honorable name can be won simultaneously.

ROBERT F. BOYD

Since the year 1892 farm industry in Hamilton county has found an aggressive and vigorous exponent in the person of Robert F. Boyd, who has lived consecutively on his present farm, in section 30, Union township, and whose progressiveness and material success are manifest in the excellent improvement and general high standard that mark this as one of the valuable farm properties of this section of the state.

Mr. Boyd was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, on the 28th of February,

1866, and is a son of Henry F. and Sarah J. Boyd, who removed from the Keystone state to Ohio when their son Robert was about six years old and who passed the closing years of their lives in the state of Wisconsin, the father having been a shoemaker by trade. Robert F. Boyd acquired his early education principally in the public schools of Ohio, and at Wellston, that state, he began working in an iron furnace when a youth. He followed this vocation a few years and thereafter became a skillful worker at the trade of stone and brick mason. He was eighteen years of age when he came to Nebraska and rented land in Otoe county, not far distant from Nebraska City, in which locality he was engaged in farm enterprise three years. Thereafter he was a representative of the same line of industry in Lancaster county until 1892, when he came to Hamilton county and rented a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Union township. This property he purchased before the close of that year and as a voucher for his dynamic energy and enterprise it may be stated that at one period he here farmed two hundred acres in an individual way at a time when he could avail himself of no farm implements nor machinery that gave him opportunity to ride while cultivating or doing other work on the farm. During the first five years of his residence in the county he realized virtually no returns from his earnest labors, as drought caused failure of crops in each of these years. He paid four thousand three hundred dollars for the quarter-section that constitutes his present fine home and he has made on the place excellent improvements, including the erection of substantial and modern buildings. In addition to his activities as an agriculturist, Mr. Boyd has worked more or less at his trade of mason within the period of his residence in Nebraska and for three years he was engaged in farming near Twin Falls, Idaho, where he became the owner of sixty acres of irrigated land. He believes thoroughly in Nebraska and its resources and through his alliance with farm industry here has won substantial success. He is a stanch republican and is loyal as a citizen, though he has never desired public office. He has taken much interest in educational affairs and served as a member of the school board of district No. 98 for several years. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity.

In Hamilton county was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Boyd to Miss Mary O. Torgerson, a member of a representative family, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Boyd have seven children, all of whom yet remain members of the attractive home circle, namely: Carl F., Mae, Ethel, Ross, Clifford, Francis and Opal.

REUBEN BOOTH

For thirty years Reuben Booth has lived in retirement in Sutton, a respected and representative citizen. His fortune is the result of his own diligence and industry and he is justly entitled to the proud American title of a self-made man.

Reuben Booth was born in western Canada, May 6, 1833, a son of James and Mary (Acklin) Booth, the former a native of England, while the latter was born in Ireland. Their marriage was celebrated in Canada and there they resided for many years and the father successfully engaged in farming. Mrs. Booth was twice

married, having one child by the first union and nine by the second. Her death occurred in Iowa, where she spent the last years of her life. She was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Reuben Booth received his education in the country schools of Canada, coming to Illinois in 1848, and in 1861 entered the service of the Union army, enlisting in the First Illinois Light Artillery, Battery F, with which he served three years, three months and three days. He participated in the battles of Shiloh, Memphis, Vicksburg, Atlanta, Georgia, and Missionary Ridge. Two different mounts of Mr. Booth's were shot and killed but he escaped injury. At the close of the war Mr. Booth returned to Lee county, Illinois, and started farming his forty acres of farm land. He remained on that land until 1873, when he removed to Nebraska, located in Clay county and homesteaded a tract of eighty acres and bought out a woman's homestead right of eighty acres. Mr. Booth and his family took up their residence on the farm and for a number of years lived in a small frame house, but they later built a fine large home. The land was brought to a high state of cultivation and Mr. Booth took his place among the representative agriculturists of the county. In 1891, however, he decided to retire from active farm life and removed to Sutton. There he purchased four lots and erected a fine residence. Mr. Booth has been retired for a period of thirty years, the early years of his life spent in diligence and industry having made this possible. Since coming to Clay county he has continually prospered and is still in possession of his farm of three hundred and twenty acres, which yields him a substantial income.

In 1855 occurred the marriage of Mr. Booth to Miss Maria Throop, a native of Canada and a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Throop. Her parents both passed away in Canada, in which country they spent their entire lives. One child has been born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Booth, Lewis L. He is an extensive farmer near Sutton. Lewis L. Booth was married to Miss Caroline Swallow and they have become parents of four children: Ona, who is teaching school; Rhoda, also teaching school; Ora, who is now attending school in Lincoln, after teaching two years; and Byron, attending the Sutton schools.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Booth the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. The religious faith of the family is that of the Methodist Episcopal church and fraternally Mr. Booth is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. His life has indeed been an honorable and upright one. He has not only done his duty but has extended a helping hand wherever aid was needed, being always ready to assist a fellow traveler upon life's journey.

L. ESKILDSEN

Since 1917 L. Eskildsen, who has been prominent in the agricultural and business circles of Hamilton county, has lived retired in Hampton, enjoying the rewards of a life spent in diligence and industry.

A native of Denmark, L. Eskildsen was born in that country on the 1st of April, 1848, and there received his education. After putting his textbooks aside he

learned the carpenter's trade and soon afterward, at the age of twenty-three years, came to the United States. In 1871 he arrived in Christian county, Illinois, and there resided until after the fire in Chicago, when he went to that city to help rebuild that devastated place. He spent one and one-half years there and in 1873 came west, locating in Omaha, where he resumed his trade. In the fall of that same year, however, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land in Hamilton county, for which he paid five dollars per acre. In the latter part of that year he removed to California, where he followed his trade as carpenter for four years and then returned to Hamilton county and resumed his farming. His land was uncultivated and had no improvements but Mr. Eskildsen immediately began to work to place it upon a paying basis. He put up a small house and stable, broke his own land and set out an orchard. He engaged in general farming and stock raising and achieved a substantial amount of success. Subsequently he removed to Hampton and became manager of a lumber-yard known as the Eskildsen & Houghton Lumber Company, remaining in that connection for five years. At the termination of that time he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of farm land in Hamilton county, added additional land in 1900, and was in possession of a fine four hundred acre tract at the time he disposed of it. There were two sets of fine buildings on this land and the sale of the farm brought him a substantial sum. In 1917 he retired to Hampton, where he built a nice home and is now residing here, a highly respected and representative citizen.

In Hamilton county occurred the marriage of Mr. Eskildsen and Elsie D. Bertelsen, also a native of Denmark. They have become parents of eight children: Bernard, who is engaged in farming in Hamilton county; Marie, the wife of Soren Petersen, a farmer of Hamilton county; Edward, who is engaged in farming at Malta, Montana; Anna, the wife of P. C. Ligaard, a missionary at Brisbane, Australia; Mark, farming in Hamilton county; Emma, who resides at home; John, who is auditor for the Farmers Elevator Company; and Sina, the wife of Harry Larsen, who is engaged in farming in Montana.

Politically Mr. Eskildsen has always been a stanch supporter of the republican party and the principles for which it stands. He has never sought nor desired public office, however, preferring to devote his entire time to his farming and lumber business. He was a member of the town board for one year. Mr. and Mrs. Eskildsen are consistent members of the Danish Lutheran church and donate generously to its various charities. Mr. Eskildsen has many friends who appreciate his true personal worth and sterling traits of character and he is indeed a citizen of whom any community would be proud.

OWEN WRIGHT

To the younger generation of the present day there is much of romance in the history of the pioneer period in Nebraska, and only those who participated in the labors and trying experiences of the pioneers can realize fully that the romantic features have needed the haze and glamour of the perspective of years to bring them into relief. Owen Wright, now one of the venerable and honored



MR. AND MRS. OWEN WRIGHT

citizens of Hamilton county, is a man who gained more than casual pioneer experience, for in the early period of Nebraska statehood he devoted much time to hunting and trapping in the wilds of this commonwealth, knew the Indians by personal contact, endured the hardships of the wilderness and yet enjoyed to the fullest extent the free and open life of the prairies and hills. He has been a resident of Nebraska for a full half century and his reminiscences of the early days are graphic and interesting.

Mr. Wright was born at Belmont, Wisconsin, October 25, 1847, and is a son of Ajalon and Sarah Wright, who were numbered among the pioneer settlers of the Badger state and of whose eight children all are living except one who was killed at the battle of the Wilderness.

Owen Wright was reared to adult age under the conditions of the pioneer days in Wisconsin, where he attended the common schools and where he gained his initial experience in connection with farm industry. In the autumn of 1871 he and his brother Cyrus drove overland from Wisconsin to Nebraska with two teams and wagons and they passed the first winter in Fillmore county. In the spring of 1872 Owen Wright came to the farm which is his present place of residence, in Hamilton township, Hamilton county, he having here taken a preemption claim of one hundred and sixty acres and his original habitation on the place having been a rude dugout. The unbroken prairie gave little semblance of the fine farms which mark the county at the present day, but Mr. Wright was a vigorous and sturdy young man who was well equipped for the hardships and labors of the pioneer. His little prairie farm was soon made deserving of the name of home, for in the summer of 1872 his parents joined him, they having driven through from Wisconsin with ox teams. They passed the remainder of their lives in Nebraska. Mr. Wright began the development and cultivation of his land, upon which he gradually made good improvements in the erection of needed buildings and here he continued to maintain his headquarters until 1886, when he removed to Grant county, where he took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres and a tree claim of one hundred and sixty acres and where he remained five years, within which time he perfected his title to the land. He then returned to his old preemption farm, in section 32, Hamilton township, Hamilton county, and this excellent farm has since continued to be his home. He is associated with his brother and his sons in the ownership of nearly an entire township in Grant county and they have made this land one of the fine stock ranches of that section of the state. On his home farm Mr. Wright has erected the substantial buildings which now mark the place as one of the model farms of Hamilton township and every one of the large trees on the place was planted by him many years ago. He was the first homesteader in Hamilton township and has done well his part in the development of the resources of the county and in furthering civic and industrial advancement. He has been a successful agriculturist and stock raiser and on his farm today may be seen excellent types of shorthorn cattle and Poland China swine, to which types of live stock he has given special attention.

As a hunter Mr. Wright has shot buffaloes, deer and antelopes through the Hamilton county section of Nebraska, and during the first five years of his residence in the state he gave much time to trapping all through the wilds of

western Nebraska, besides continuing his journeyings across the line into Colorado. He was often absent six months on such expeditions and was a successful trapper of otter and beaver. On his trips he encountered many Indians and at times weeks would pass without his seeing a white man. More pleasing in retrospect than participation were his experiences in connection with droughts, grasshopper devastations and blizzards of the early days, but it is most interesting to listen to his many reminiscences concerning the pioneer period in Nebraska history, for his fellowship in pioneer life was of the closest order.

On the 14th of February, 1876, was recorded the marriage of Mr. Wright to Miss Letitia B. Collins, who was born in Athens county, Ohio, and who was a childhood playmate and sweetheart of Mr. Wright's in Wisconsin, where their marriage was solemnized, their bridal tour having been the journey to the pioneer home which Mr. Wright had provided in Hamilton county, Nebraska. Their children are: Ida, the eldest, is the wife of Edgar Graham and they reside in Wisconsin; Eva is the widow of William Donaldson and maintains her home in Kansas; Addie is the wife of John Marks, a farmer in the state of Iowa; Ira is a prosperous farmer in Union township, Hamilton county, as is also Orren; Lena remains at home; and Lloyd is a progressive exponent of farm enterprise in Hamilton precinct.

Mr. Wright has interested himself loyally in community affairs, has given many years of service as a member of the school board of his district, both as director and treasurer; is a republican in politics; has been affiliated with the Masonic fraternity for more than twenty years and has received the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, and his wife holds membership in the Order of the Eastern Star.

JOHN HAGERMAN

While now living retired in Aurora John Hagerman was for many years identified with agricultural pursuits and through the careful and capable manner in which he operated his fields and cared for his crops he won the success that now enables him to rest from further labor. He has passed the seventy-fourth milestone on life's journey, his birth having occurred at Van Wert, Ohio, November, 1846, his parents being William and Mary Ann (Barlean) Hagerman, the former a native of Pennsylvania while the latter was born in Ohio. The paternal grandfather, William Hagerman, was also a native of Pennsylvania and from that state removed to Ohio where his death occurred. His parents came from Holland, being the founders of the family in the new world. The maternal grandfather, John Barlean, was born in Germany and in early life became a resident of the Buckeye state where he continued to make his home until called to his final rest.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. William Hagerman was celebrated in Ohio, to which state they had removed with their parents in early childhood. They had both been pupils in the public schools of Pennsylvania and afterward continued their education in Ohio. William Hagerman became a farmer but died when only twenty-seven years of age. Two years after his death Mrs. Hagerman became the wife of Edward Hattery and they continued to make their home in Van Wert

county. John Hagerman was the youngest child and is now the only survivor of the three children who were born of his mother's first marriage. She also had three children by the second marriage, two daughters and a son, the latter now deceased. The others still make their home in Ohio and in that state the mother died in 1888. Both the parents of John Hagerman were members of the Presbyterian church and the father a republican in his political views.

John Hagerman acquired a common school education in his native county and started out to earn his own livelihood by following agricultural pursuits. In 1868 he went to Iowa where he remained for three years upon a farm and then in 1871 came to Hamilton county which was then a frontier district where the work of settlement and development had scarcely begun. He homesteaded eighty acres east of Aurora, preempted eighty acres, and also purchased forty acres of railroad land. He still owns these various tracts which he acquired and for many years was one of the energetic and capable farmers of the county. His first home was a sod house but after two years he built a frame dwelling and continued on the farm until 1896, at which time he settled in Aurora. Here he built a nice home at the corner of L and Sixth streets. There was not a single house in Aurora when he came to Hamilton county and he assisted in hauling from Grand Island the lumber that was used in constructing the first dwelling built in the present county seat.

In 1872, in Iowa, Mr. Hagerman was married to Miss Amanda Thompson who was born in Ohio, a daughter of William Thompson who went to Iowa at an early day and died at the home of his daughter. To Mr. and Mrs. Hagerman have been born two children: Bertha, who is the wife of Arthur Miller, a rural mail carrier of Aurora; and Arthur, who is engaged in the poultry business in St. Paul, Nebraska. Mrs. Hagerman is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Hagerman is a loyal supporter of the republican party but has never been an office seeker. His life has been devoted to business and his close application and energy have been the salient features in the attainment of his present position of prosperity. He was poor when he came to the county and borrowed money with which to help make payment on preempted land. Step by step he has progressed, the years bringing him eventually to the goal of success and he is still the owner of his original farm property on which there has never been a mortgage, and which through the intervening years has returned to him a golden harvest, resulting in a gratifying annual income.

J. E. INGRAM, M. D.

Dr. J. E. Ingram, physician and surgeon of Harvard, is enjoying a good practice that is constantly increasing. His college training and his post-graduate work have been most thorough and his office is equipped with X-ray machines and other facilities for professional work of an advanced character. Doctor Ingram comes to Nebraska from the neighboring state of Kansas, his birth having occurred in Republic county on the 30th of April, 1883, his parents being J. T. and Alice (Kerby) Ingram, both of whom were natives of Iowa, in which state they were

reared and married. In 1872 they removed to Thayer county, Nebraska, where the father homesteaded and in 1886 they went to Kansas. In that state he purchased land near the city of Republic and continued to reside there for fourteen years, or until 1900, when he took his family to Franklin county, Nebraska, securing a farm there which he further developed and improved until 1907. In that year he sold the property and retired from active life, establishing his home at Bethany, Nebraska. Since that time, however, he has acquired a fruit farm in California, where he now makes his home. His wife passed away in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1909. They were the parents of nine children, all of whom are living, J. E. Ingram being the sixth in order of birth. The parents were members of the Christian church and J. T. Ingram was a republican in politics in early manhood but afterward became a supporter of the populist party. In 1891 he was called to represent his district in the Kansas legislature and some time afterward became an advocate of democratic principles.

J. E. Ingram attended the common schools of Kansas and also the high school at Bloomington, Nebraska, while subsequently he was for four years a student in Cotner University. Determining to make the practice of medicine his life work, he afterward entered the Eclectic Medical College at Cincinnati, Ohio, and was there graduated in 1915. He then came to Harvard, where he opened an office, but in the meantime served as an interne in a hospital at Cincinnati and also as interne in a hospital at Lincoln, Nebraska, for eight months, thus gaining valuable professional experience. He was likewise at one time assistant to a physician at Chanute, Kansas, but has practiced at Harvard continuously since July 17, 1916. He here has a nice practice which is constantly growing and he has splendid X-ray equipment in his office. In 1917 he pursued post-graduate studies at Rochester, Minnesota, and has also studied in the Chicago Polyclinic Post Graduate School. In August, 1920, he pursued special work in rectal diseases in Chicago and thus by advanced study he is constantly promoting his skill and efficiency.

On the 4th of July, 1915, Dr. Ingram was married to Miss Ada B. Sipes, who was born in Franklin county, Nebraska, and to them has been born a son, Bernard Everett, now three years of age. The parents are members of the Christian church, loyally following its teachings and high purposes. Dr. Ingram belongs also to the Masonic fraternity and to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Politically he is a democrat but without aspiration for office. He belongs to the County, State and American Medical Associations and the State and National Eclectic Associations and has ever made his professional duties his first interest and consideration, so that he enjoys the confidence of the general public and of his professional brethren as well.

ABRAHAM G. HAGEY

Abraham G. Hagey was one of the honored settlers of Hamilton county and was familiar with every phase of early development in this section of the state. He came here when the work of progress and improvement had scarcely begun and bore his full share in carrying it forward. Not only were his labors a factor in the

cultivation of farms but were also an element in public progress through his efforts to promote the schools and to advance every project for the general good.

Mr. Hagey was born in Pennsylvania in 1834 and in 1847 or 1848 went with his parents to Illinois, where his father engaged in the jewelry business. He drew lots with his brothers to see who would enter the service at the time of the Civil war and it fell to him to remain at home, for some one was needed in caring for the farm property.

It was in the spring of 1873 that Mr. Hagey came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, making his way to what was then a frontier region into which it seemed that civilization had scarcely penetrated. He purchased a relinquishment from a man who was driven out by the Easter blizzard. Mr. Hagey had driven through from Illinois with three horses and a covered wagon, camping out along the road at night. His first place was an eighty-acre tract of land and his first house was partly of sod and partly a dugout. He also had a sod stable on his place and a well was put down. He likewise planted forest trees and continued the work of steady development and improvement in this section of the state. On various occasions Indians passed through the district on their hunting trips. In those pioneer days Mr. Hagey did most of his trading at Harvard and often took his grist to mill in York county and sometimes to Springranch in Clay county. There were still some antelopes in this section of the state and various evidences of unimprovement and of unsettled conditions of the west. His labors constituted an element in planting the seeds of civilization and of development which have since borne rich fruit here.

At Sterling, Illinois, in 1860, Mr. Hagey was married to Miss Agnes Lyle, a native of Scotland, who was born February 22, 1832, and accompanied her parents on their emigration to the United States about 1843. She departed this life April 7, 1901, having long survived her husband, who died in Hamilton county, Nebraska, in February, 1878. They were the parents of four children: George, who still occupies the old homestead; Frances, the wife of W. E. Cutts of Alliance, Nebraska; James, living in Downey, California; and John, who is farming in Hamilton county. After the mother's death the sons George and John took over the old home place, planted an orchard and greatly improved the property.

Abraham G. Hagey assisted in organizing the school in District No. 64. He belonged to the Grange, becoming connected therewith in 1871 and 1872 while dealing with Montgomery Ward & Company of Chicago. He remained a member until his death. His name is high on the roll of valued pioneer residents of this section of the state and the work which he instituted as a farmer is still being carried on by his sons George and John, who own the old homestead jointly.

CHRISTIAN GEORGE

Russia has contributed a substantial portion to the population of Hamilton county and the representatives of that land have been closely associated with the substantial development of this section of the state, especially along agricultural lines. Christian George is numbered among those who formerly engaged in farming and by reason of capable business management are now enabled to enjoy

well earned rest. He was born in southern Russia, April 1, 1850, and is a brother of John George, in connection with whose sketch on another page of this work the family history is given. He was educated in his native country and in 1874 came to Hamilton county where he assisted in the arduous task of breaking sod and preparing the undeveloped prairie land for farming. He purchased a half section of railroad land at four dollars per acre, paying one tenth down and the balance in ten years. His first home was a sod house, or rather a mud house with a sod roof, which he built and in which he lived until he had completed payment on the property. In time he replaced this primitive home with a frame dwelling. From time to time as his financial resources increased he bought more land and had at one time five hundred and eighty acres.

In 1872 Mr. George married Rosanna Ormen, a native of Russia and a daughter of Phillip and Freda (Wall) Ormen, who passed away in Russia, where her father had followed farming. Ten children have been born of this marriage: John M., a farmer of this county; J. C., also farming here; Matilda, the wife of Jacob Nickloes of Hamilton county; Carl and Gussie, who are farming in this county; Peter, living in Aurora; Lydia, the wife of Edwin Banks of Aurora, who is a railroad man; Rose, at home; Paul, in the railroad employ; and Ernest, upon the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. George are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and his political endorsement is given to the republican party. While on the farm he served as a member of the school board but has never been active in seeking public office. He occupied the farm until 1915 when he removed to Aurora and retired from business, his land being at that time worth two hundred dollars per acre. He gave each child land worth five thousand dollars and still holds a mortgage of twenty-three thousand dollars on land which he sold. All of this he has accomplished in an active and busy life.

WILLIAM PROUTY

William Prouty is one of the prominent and influential residents of Clay county, making his home at Edgar. He has devoted his entire life to agriculture and has won a measure of success that is of a most substantial character and which has come to him as the direct reward of his perseverance and earnest labor. He was born in Berrien county, Michigan, on the 30th of October, 1851, a son of Caleb and Margaret (Williams) Prouty, the former a native of Vermont, while the latter was born in New York. Their marriage occurred in Michigan, where both had come as young people. Six children were born to that union, three of whom are living: Louise, who is the wife of Mason Hungerford, a veteran of the Civil war, residing in California; Ida, the wife of J. W. Jameson, a veteran of that conflict, now a resident of Hillsboro, Oregon; and William, whose name initiates this review. Throughout their lives both Mr. and Mrs. Prouty were consistent members of the Christian church and he was a stanch supporter of the republican party.

William Prouty is indebted to the schools of Michigan for his education and



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM PROUTY

after putting his textbooks aside he engaged in farming with his father. In 1872, however, he determined to come west and as a result located in Clay county, where he acquired a homestead of eighty acres. He built a log house on this land and there resided alone until 1877, when he returned to Michigan and was married. Soon after that event he and his wife came to the homestead and thereon resided until July 9, 1919, when they removed to Edgar. Mr. Prouty sold his homestead, realizing a substantial sum, and purchased a five acre tract on the edge of Edgar, where he built a fine home.

In 1877 occurred the marriage of Mr. Prouty and Miss Ida Schweisthal, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of Nicholas and Elizabeth (Robbins) Schweisthal, the former a native of Germany and the latter of England. They both came to the United States at an early day and their marriage was celebrated in Wisconsin. Upon the outbreak of the Civil war the father enlisted in the Wisconsin regulars and served with them two years. During his active service he was quite severely wounded and confined to an army hospital for several months. The death of Mr. Schweisthal occurred June, 1881, at the Soldiers Home in Milwaukee. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Schweisthal four girls were born, three of whom are living; Mrs. Prouty; Mary, who is the wife of E. C. Stephens of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Hannah, who is the wife of E. J. Jones, who is engaged in plumbing in Aurora. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Prouty: William Ross, whose death occurred at the age of nineteen months; Luella, who is the wife of A. N. Squires, a farmer of Clay county; Alta, who married E. A. Hunter, a musician, and they reside in Missouri; Fred W. works for the county on the roads; Grace, the wife of H. M. Larkin, a resident of Ayr; and Pearl, whose death occurred on the 15th of March, 1920, and who was the wife of Dr. W. T. Simpson.

Mr. Prouty follows an independent course in politics and fraternally is identified with the Odd Fellows. The religious faith of Mr. and Mrs. Prouty is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. He passed through all the hardships of the pioneer days but allowed no obstacle to remain long in his path. His success is the result of his own determined effort, intelligently directed, and he is living retired in Edgar, an honored and representative citizen.

HENRY T. WILLISS

Among the well known men in Clay county is Henry T. Williss, a retired farmer of Fairfield. He was born in Indiana on the 7th of February, 1855, a son of Jesse and Jane (Manwell) Williss. His parents were both born in Ohio and removed to Iowa in 1857, settling in Prairie county. From that time until 1875 Jesse Williss engaged in farming and then came to Nebraska, Gage county, where he purchased land and resided thereon until his death.

Henry Williss received his education in the country schools of Iowa and walked a distance of seven miles to the little log schoolhouse each day. He attended school for two or three months in the year and the remainder of the time helped his father on the home farm. When his parents located in Gage county in 1875 he

came with them and until he was twenty-seven years of age remained under the parental roof. He then rented land for some time and later purchased eighty acres, on which place he erected some fine frame improvements. He traded that eighty for one hundred and sixty acres in Gage county, which he soon afterward disposed of and subsequently purchased a one hundred and sixty acre tract one mile east of Fairfield. That land was fairly well improved and under Mr. Williss's able management was soon brought to a highly cultivated state. He engaged in general farming and kept a good grade of stock and was known throughout the county as a most successful agriculturist. In 1914 he retired from active life, selling his one hundred and sixty acres, and moved into Fairfield, where he is residing, a highly respected citizen. He is active in the development and improvement of the community and has an interest in the Farmers & Merchants Bank and the Farmers Elevator.

On January 29, 1879, in Nebraska, occurred the marriage of Mr. Williss and Miss Jennie Gemmill, a native of Canada, and to them six children have been born: Emma, who is the wife of C. E. Duntz of Smith county, Kansas; Ella, the widow of Marion Ests and a resident of Davey; Will, a resident of Smith Center, Kansas; Erma, who is the wife of Edward Bailey of Harvard; Lewis LeRoy, of Smith Center, Kansas, who received training for entrance into the World war at Camp Cody, New Mexico, and saw active service abroad; and Charles, of Smith Center, Kansas.

In politics Mr. Williss follows an independent course, giving his support to the man he thinks best fitted for any particular office. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church and both he and his wife are consistent members of that organization. Mr. Williss has led a useful and active life and his success is due to his own determined effort, intelligently directed.

D. C. HAGER

One of the attractive commercial establishments of Clay Center is the jewelry store of D. C. Hager, who has continuously been connected with the jewelry trade in this city since 1886, or for a period of thirty-five years. He was born in Appanoose county, Iowa, November 12, 1861, and is a son of Jacob and Margaret (Craft) Hager, the former a native of Ohio, while the latter was born in Pennsylvania. They were married in Iowa, having removed to that state when young people, and the father followed the occupation of farming, having a small tract of land which he afterward sold prior to removing to Clay county, Nebraska, in 1875. Here he purchased a homestead right of one hundred and sixty acres, which had a little house on it. He added some improvements to the place and afterward sold it, at which time he bought land one mile south and town property in Clay Center and took up his abode in the city, there spending his remaining days. His widow still makes her home in Clay Center. Mrs. Hager is a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which Mr. Hager also belonged and he was likewise a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, having served for three

years as a Union soldier in the Civil war. On one occasion he was captured by the Confederate forces and sent to prison in Tyler, Texas, where he was incarcerated for three months. To Mr. and Mrs. Hager were born ten children: D. C., of this review; Clara, the widow of Hugh Louden and now a resident of Montana; Frank, who is clerking in a store at Clay Center; Ida, the wife of W. F. Taylor, a carpenter of Clay Center; John, who is farming in Minnesota; Cora, the wife of John Athey, a farmer, living near Ord, Nebraska; G. Edward, a prominent attorney of Lincoln, who formerly served as county attorney; Addie, who lives with her mother; Eva, the wife of Rev. Charles Burns, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church located at Chester, Nebraska; and Pearl, the wife of W. P. Hertel, a merchant of Clay Center.

D. C. Hager was educated in the country schools of Clay county and began life on a farm. He learned the jewelry business in a store at Ottumwa, Iowa, and started in business on his own account along the same line in 1886. He has been engaged in the jewelry trade since that time, covering a period of thirty-five years, and has long been accounted one of the prominent and representative merchants of this section of the state by reason of the thorough-going business methods he has displayed, his unfaltering enterprise and his unquestioned reliability in all trade transactions.

In 1886 Mr. Hager was married to Mrs. Addie (Brooks) Wohrman, a native of Illinois and a daughter of George Brooks, who was a pioneer settler of Clay county, where he took up the occupation of farming. He afterward removed to Buffalo county, Nebraska, where he purchased land and at a later date went to California, where his remaining days were passed. He served as a soldier of the Civil war. To Mr. and Mrs. Hager have been born four children: Elmer L., born in 1888, was educated in the high schools of Clay Center and is now a partner of his father in the optical business; Margaret is at home; Edna is a student in Cotner University, of Lincoln; and Ruth is employed in the office of the county attorney. Mrs. Hager also had a daughter by her previous marriage, Etta, the wife of Allan Campbell of Clay Center. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hager hold membership in the Christian church and he belongs also to the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His political endorsement is given to the republican party, but his entire time and attention are given to his store and the careful management of his business has brought to him a substantial measure of prosperity.

JOHN J. KLINE

A pioneer farmer of Hamilton county was John J. Kline and his death which occurred March 14, 1914, came as a servere shock to his many friends. A native of Ohio he was born in Portage county in 1848, a son of John and Margaret (May) Kline. John J. Kline was but eight years of age at the time of his father's death and at that early age began to assume responsibilities. He obtained such education as was afforded in the country schools of Ohio, and when seventeen years of age learned the carpenter's trade which line of work he followed until the removal of the family to Illinois, when he was a young man. He farmed rented land in

that state where his marriage occurred in 1875 and in 1880 Mr. Kline and his family came west. The trip was made by train and they settled in Hamilton county in 1883, buying one hundred and sixty acres of land whereon he built a small frame house, shed and stable and made additional improvements. He planted an orchard but this largely died out as the result of the droughts of '93 and '94. He was a very successful farmer and increased his holdings from time to time until he had a fine ranch of two hundred and forty acres in section 32, Scoville township. He was a man of great energy and determination and allowed no obstacle, however great, long to remain in his path.

In 1875, while residing in Illinois, Mr. Kline was married to Miss Bertha Horschler, a native of Mount Pulaski, Logan county, that state. Her parents were Melchior and Mary (Young) Horschler. Twelve children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kline: Anthony H., whose death occurred at the age of twenty-three years; George, engaged in farming in Hamilton county; Lena, who is the wife of William Wonderlich, a farmer of Hamilton county; Katherine L., at home; Ralph, who passed away at the age of two years; Cecelia, at home; Daniel E., farming in Hamilton county; Elmer, who died in infancy; Mary L., who is the wife of Cyril Wonderlich, a farmer of Hamilton county; Clara M., who is Sister Leonarda at St. Anthony's School, Cedar Rapids, Nebraska; Francisca, who is Sister Francis Dominick in the St. Agnes Academy at Memphis, Tennessee; and Irene, who is also a nun, being known as Sister Theodore and is at St. Patrick's School, Fremont, Nebraska.

Throughout his life Mr. Kline was a stanch democrat, having firm faith in the principles of that party as factors in good government. Fraternally he was well known as a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Royal Highlanders and the Knights of Columbus. His religious faith was that of the Catholic church and he was a member of the St. Joseph church at Giltner. Having had but few educational advantages himself, Mr. Kline was a fervent worker in furthering any movement along that line and he served as school treasurer for a period of twenty-seven years. He was also for many years road overseer of the precinct. The greater part of Mr. Kline's life was devoted to farming and he became well known and an influential leader in the community. His death, March 14, 1914, was an occasion of deep sorrow throughout the vicinity, for in his passing Hamilton county lost a representative citizen.

JACOB BUDLER

Jacob Budler, for many years prominent in agricultural circles of Hamilton county, is now residing retired on his home farm in section 31, Valley township, a prosperous and respected citizen. A native of Germany, he was born on the 28th of December, 1851, and twenty years later came to the United States, in the spring of 1871.

Upon his arrival in this country Jacob Budler first located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he obtained employment in a dairy. He remained in that connection until May of that year, when he began to realize the greater opportunities offered in the west and as a result left Pennsylvania for Illinois, locating at

Aurora. He made his home there for about nine years, working out by the month for about four years and then farming rented land for the remainder of the time. In 1879 he came to Nebraska, locating in Hamilton county, where he bought one hundred and twenty acres of land and there was a sod house and a shed on the place. Part of the land had been broken and the remainder being in prairie he immediately set about to cultivate it. He had brought a horse team and some farm machinery with him from Illinois. After purchasing his land, for which he paid eight and a quarter dollars per acre, Mr. Budler was without funds, but it was not long before he had his land on a paying basis. His farm is now composed of three hundred and ninety-three acres with two sets of buildings.

While residing in Illinois the marriage of Mr. Budler to Miss Katrina Bermes was celebrated at Aurora on the 25th of February, 1872. To them thirteen children have been born, four claiming Illinois as their native state: John, Antone, Henry and Nettie, all born in Illinois; Frank, died in infancy; Marie; Bennie; Rosy; George; Albert; Annie and Lula. One died unnamed. Henry is in the United States army and was active in the Spanish-American war. This family has been closely bound together, each doing his part toward the making of the family fortune. Sickness has played but little part in their lives and for the most part the family circle remains intact.

Mr. Budler and family are consistent members of the Catholic church and he is a generous contributor to its every cause. He has always taken an active part in the development and improvement of the community in which he has so long resided, and he served his fellowmen as road overseer for one year. Mr. Budler is now living retired on his home farm, which is being conducted by his son, Bennie, and his son-in-law, Clyde Henthorne. He has labored hard and faithfully and is well entitled to the rest from hard work which he is now enjoying.

NELS W. PETERSON

Another of that fine element of Scandinavian citizenship that has played a large and important part in the civic and industrial progress of Hamilton county is Nels W. Peterson, who is one of the substantial exponents of farm enterprise in the township where his well improved farm is situated.

Mr. Peterson was born in Sweden, April 6, 1850, and in his native land he was reared and educated. At the age of twenty years, moved by the urge of ambition and resolute purpose, he came to the United States and it is entirely through his own ability and well ordered efforts that he has made his way upward to the plane of substantial prosperity. He passed the first four years in the state of Mississippi, where he found employment in the cotton fields. Later he went to Tennessee and other parts of the country and within a short time after the great Chicago fire established his residence at Princeton, Illinois, where he worked on a farm for two years and here his marriage occurred. He gave nine years of effective service in connection with the nursery business conducted in Illinois by a nephew of William Cullen Bryant, the distinguished American poet, and in 1885 numbered himself among the pioneer settlers of Hamilton county, Nebraska. Here

he rented land for five years. He recalls with somewhat grim humor that when the assessor made his first official visit to the Peterson home he found the possessions of Mr. Peterson to be chiefly summed up in a good wife and three vigorous children. He continued his residence for five years on the farm of John J. Nordgren, who aided him in buying horses and otherwise getting a start on the road to independence. Mr. Peterson recalls with most appreciative memory this old and loyal friend of the early days.

Upon leaving the Nordgren farm Mr. Peterson purchased his present fine homestead place of one hundred and sixty acres, the farm having at that time virtually no buildings except a small and crude shanty, which served as the temporary habitation of the family. The land of this locality was then without fences and it required both courage and vision to develop a farm from the virgin soil. The homestead is now equipped with good buildings, including a commodious and modern house which was erected by Mr. Peterson in 1902 and a fine orchard adds to the attraction and value of the place. Mr. Peterson's former nursery experience proved of great service to him in his development of this orchard and his technical skill is shown in his growing three kinds of fruit on one tree. He has been one of the energetic and progressive agriculturists and stock raisers of the county and gives special attention to the raising of hogs of excellent grade. So noteworthy have been his activities in the supplying of the best of seed corn that he has locally gained the title of "Seed-corn Peterson." He has raised and sold more seed corn than any other man in Hamilton county, his annual sales aggregating hundreds of bushels of the wonderful "Golden Superior" corn, in the propagation of which he has been remarkably successful and in which fact he takes much pride. Knowing well the needs and limitations of farmers he always sells his seed corn at reasonable prices. He takes loyal interest in all that touches the well being of the community, is a democrat in politics, has served twenty years as a member of the school board of his district and he and his wife are active members of the Swedish Mission church.

The maiden name of Mrs. Peterson was Annie Swanson. She was born in Sweden and was thirteen years old when she accompanied her parents, John and Christina (Erickson) Swanson on their immigration to the United States, where the parents passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have a fine family of seven children: Albert, Oscar, Meda, Nancy, Della, Esther and Hiram. Meda, who passed away in March, 1921, was the wife of Nels Peterson, who is engaged in farming not far distant from the home of his wife's father. All of the other children are at home with their parents.

LOUIS F. FRYAR

Louis F. Fryar, engaged in the abstract and insurance business at Clay Center, was born in Darke county, Ohio, November 1, 1842, a son of Hezekiah and Delilah (Spencer) Fryar, the former a native of Virginia, while the latter was born in Maryland. The parents spent the greater part of their lives in Darke county, Ohio, and were there residing when called to the home beyond.

Louis F. Fryar spent his boyhood days in his native county and pursued his



LOUIS F. FRYAR

education in the district schools, remaining in Ohio until 1860, when he removed to Rock Island county, Illinois. There in 1861 he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting as a member of Company A, Thirty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for four years and nine months during the Civil war. He participated in several important battles and at all times loyally defended the interests of the Union until victory perched upon the starry banner of the nation.

Returning to Illinois after the war Mr. Fryar there resided until 1869, when he came to Nebraska, taking up his abode in Thayer county. In the fall of 1870, he came to Clay county, settling at Liberty Farm, and when the town of Fairfield was established a year and a half later, he removed to that place and opened an implement business. In 1882 he removed to Clay Center, where he has since resided, and as one of the pioneer settlers and progressive citizens, he has contributed in large measure to the progress and development of this section of the state. His fellow townsmen, appreciative of his worth and ability, elected him county clerk in 1882, and he filled that position most acceptably for eight years. He was also county supervisor for some time and his public duties have ever been discharged with conscientious fidelity. Taking up the real estate business a number of years ago, he has since been active in that line. He has given his attention almost exclusively to this business since about 1892, previous to which time he served as private secretary under Benjamin R. Cowdery, secretary of state, from 1889 until 1891.

In the year 1873 Mr. Fryar was married to Miss Laura A. Bancroft a native of New Hampshire, who taught school for a number of years in Clay county prior to her marriage. They became the parents of five children: Louis C., who has charge of the books for the Johnson Incubator Company of Clay Center, and has been secretary and treasurer of the company for a number of years; Mabel, the wife of C. J. Keith, living on a farm near Bladen, Nebraska; Myrtle, who is a twin sister of Mabel and is the wife of A. B. Jones of Mitchell, Nebraska; Earl, living at Clay Center, Nebraska, where he is filling the position of chief clerk in the postoffice; and Stanley, who is in the office of the Incubator Company at Clay Center.

Mr. Fryar is well known in Masonic circles and has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite and is also a Knight Templar. He likewise belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic and has served as commander of his post. In politics he has always been a stalwart republican. After his service in the Civil war, he became a member of the state militia and so continued from June, 1869, until November as a member of Company A, First Regiment of Military Cavalry. He has always been interested in the military conditions and questions before the country and his influence has always been on the side of progress and improvement. He is indeed one of the pioneer settlers of Clay county, and one who has contributed in large measure to its welfare and progress. On coming to Nebraska, he homesteaded in Jones county, now Thayer county, in 1869 and lived on the land for a short time but afterward sold it and became identified with the interests of Clay county, where he has taken part in many measures and projects that have been of direct value to this section of the state. He now devotes his entire time to his abstract and insurance business and has gained

a good clientage in this connection. Enterprise and ability have brought him to the front and at all times he has faithfully discharged the duties of citizenship, making a splendid public official and doing everything in his power to advance the welfare and progress of the community, commonwealth and country, his loyalty in days of peace being of the same character as that which prompted his enlistment in active service in defense of the Union during the Civil war.

JOHN GEORGE

John George, a retired farmer living in Aurora, was born in Russia, December 11, 1854. He is a son of Christ and Frede (Myer) George, who were also of Russian birth. The father came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, in 1876, secured a homestead claim and spent his remaining days here, his attention being devoted to the occupation of farming. He was the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land at the time of his demise. When he began he had a small sod house and little money with which to carry on the work of improving his farm, but as the years passed his labors wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of his land which in the course of years yielded him a good harvest. To him and his wife were born nine children, of whom eight are living: Henry, a farmer residing near Loup City, Nebraska; Christ, a retired farmer of Aurora; Jacob, who has also retired from agricultural pursuits and lives in Aurora; John, of this review; Fred, owner of a fruit ranch in California; Gus, a stockman, residing at Ericson, Nebraska; Adam, who is engaged in general farming in this county; and Josephine, the wife of August Holdgraf, a retired farmer of Aurora. The parents were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and politically Mr. George was a republican.

In the schools of his native country John George obtained his education and on coming to the United States in 1874, when a young man of nineteen years, settled in Hamilton county. He first worked by the month as a farm hand, receiving a wage of sixteen dollars per month for two and a half years. He was ambitious to engage in business on his own account, however, and contracted for land from the railroad company. On his purchase he made a cash payment of fifty-seven dollars down and paid the remainder in ten years, acquiring one hundred and sixty acres for which he paid five dollars per acre. He still owns this land which is situated in Beaver precinct and is valuable farm property. He subsequently purchased one hundred and twenty acres more which is also still in his possession. Year after year he carefully tilled the soil and to his farm added many modern equipments and improvements. In 1917, however, he left the farm and removed to Aurora, where he erected a nice home at No. 1016 Sixteenth street. While he is living practically retired he makes frequent visits to his farm to give general supervision thereto and it is regarded as one of the splendidly improved properties of the district.

In 1881 Mr. George was married to Miss Amelia Holdgraf, who was born in Missouri, a daughter of S. H. and C. M. (Osthoff) Holdgraf, who were natives of Germany and came to the United States about 1848. They settled in Missouri

and the father there followed the profession of teaching. He afterward removed to Freeport, Illinois, where he taught for a number of years and in November, 1872, became a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska, and was teacher of German in the public schools there. To him and his wife were born ten children, of whom three are living, Mrs. George being the seventh child. The parents were members of the Evangelical church in which her father was a minister, acting at one time as minister of the church at Aurora.

Mr. and Mrs. George have become parents of three children: R. G., who was educated in Aurora and is now on his father's farm; Clara, who is employed in the Farmer's State Bank at Aurora; and Mata, at home. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. George votes with the republican party. He has served on the school board and the cause of education has found in him a warm friend. He stands loyally by all those projects which promise progress and improvement in public affairs and is interested in all that pertains to the welfare and upbuilding of the community. His own life illustrates what could be accomplished through individual effort and determined purpose, for he started out in the business world empty handed and all he has won and enjoyed is attributable entirely to his own labors.

ALBERT HULTINE

Albert Hultine, owner of the Gray Gable stock farm in Eldorado township and one of the leading stock raisers of Clay county, was born in that county on the 2d of January, 1877, a son of John and Emma (Nelson) Hultine. The father came to Clay county in 1872 and for some time worked for the Burlington Railroad at Hastings and other places farther west. Later he acquired a homestead, section 12 of Lewis precinct, and there built his first house of sod and a barn. In later years he built a more modern dwelling of frame with a sod kitchen and bedroom. Mr. Hultine broke some of his land himself and hired the rest of it done. He put out many shade trees on the place and an orchard. Indians were frequent visitors to the homestead, where they begged for food and warmth and the hospitality of John Hultine was known far and wide. There was plenty of game in the vicinity of the farm, a few buffaloes but many antelopes, and hunting in those days was more a necessity than a pleasure. During the severe blizzard of 1873, which lasted several days, Mr. Hultine lost his hat and the following spring found it in a creek one mile from the house. In order to secure provisions trips had to be made to Sutton and Grafton and fuel was obtained from along the creek banks. Although Mr. Hultine met with many overwhelming discouragements he had determined to succeed, and as a result of his grim determination and intelligently directed efforts was in possession of four hundred acres of fine land at the time of his death. His demise occurred in 1892 and in his passing Clay county lost another of her pioneer citizens. In religious circles of the county John Hultine was most prominent, having been one of the organizers of the Swedish Lutheran church, which he served as deacon for many years. He also assisted in the organization of the first school district and served as school treasurer.

Albert Hultine received his education in the public schools of his native county and after putting his textbooks aside engaged with his father in farming for some time. He then decided to enter that line of work on his own account and now owns nine hundred and sixty acres of land. He started a shorthorn cattle ranch in 1899. For seven years he engaged in breeding this grade of cattle and then began to raise the polled (now known as shorthorn) cattle, in which line he is still specializing. He has one of the finest cattle ranches in the county and is widely known throughout the state and country as a stockman of much ability. At all important stock shows Mr. Hultine has had some of his cattle on display and has carried off many prizes. For three years in succession he took the grand champion prize on females at the International Stock Show in Chicago, and took eight first prizes there also. At the same place in 1920 he won the senior and junior awards and had a grand champion female. For eight years he has had entries in the Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas State fairs and in 1920 had a grand champion male and female at the Iowa state fair, a female grand champion in Nebraska, and in Kansas received the awards for both male and female grand champion. In the stock show at Denver in January, 1921, in the competition of shorthorn cattle Mr. Hultine took first prize on a female two-year-old; a two-year-old bull won third prize, a cow won fourth place and Mr. Hultine took fourth prize on his aged herd.

In 1901 Mr. Hultine was united in marriage to Hulda England and they have two children: Lloyd and Cleo, both at home.

Politically Mr. Hultine is an independent voter, giving his support to the man he thinks most suited for the office, regardless of party. The religious faith of the family is that of the Swedish Lutheran church. The success of Mr. Hultine as a stock raiser is widely known, not only throughout this country but in foreign countries as well. Last year he shipped a bull to Australia and three heifers to Uruguay, South America, and this year will ship two bulls and two heifers to Uruguay. Although Mr. Hultine devotes the greater part of his time to his stock raising he is interested in the improvement and development of the community and also has an interest in the elevators at Saronville.

BEN PABEN

Ben Paben has become specially well known as one of the progressive and successful exponents of live stock industry in Hamilton county, where his well improved agricultural and stock farm is eligibly situated in Otis township, his attractive farm being in section 24 of that township. He was born in Menard county, Illinois, in the year 1862, but was only six years of age when his parents came to the new state of Nebraska, which had just emerged from the territorial régime, and numbered themselves among the pioneer settlers in Otoe county, where he was reared to manhood and where he received the advantages of the common schools of the period. Mr. Paben continued his active association with farm enterprise in that county until 1892, when he came to Hamilton county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 24, Otis township, where he has since maintained his home. Only forty acres of this tract had been broken when he

assumed possession, but all is now available for effective cultivation, while he has made the best of improvements on the place, including the erection of modern buildings. With increasing prosperity he has added gradually to his land holdings until he is now the owner of a valuable property of four hundred and eighty acres. While showing discrimination and progressiveness in the agricultural department of his farm enterprise Mr. Paben has given much study and attention to the raising and feeding of live stock, has for a number of years maintained on his farm the best types of full-blooded cattle and hogs and he attributes much of his success as an agriculturist and stock raiser to his insistent policy of keeping in touch with modern and scientific methods and policies. He encountered his quota of losses through seasons of drought and through grasshopper visitations, but he has looked upon these reverses as far from the normal trend of affairs in the county and state and his substantial success has fully justified his confidence and persistent application. He takes loyal interest in community affairs but has had no desire for political activity nor public office.

At the age of twenty-seven years Mr. Paben was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Neubauer, who was born and reared in Nebraska, and of this union have been born ten children, all of whom are living, namely: William, Matilda, Katie, Archie, Lulu, Clarence, Hazel, Mabel, Pearl, and Irvin. In the attractive home circle is found also an adopted daughter, Floyd. William, the eldest son, is now a prosperous farmer in Valley county, and the eldest daughter, Matilda, is the wife of John Wesley, likewise a farmer in York county.

EMIL ANDERSON

Emil Anderson is progressive in his activities as one of the representative agriculturists and stock raisers of Hamilton county, his farm being in section 9, Monroe and Phillips township. He was born in Sweden in the year 1873, the date of his nativity having been August 27, and he was but a boy when his parents numbered themselves among the sturdy pioneer settlers of Hamilton county, Nebraska. He is a son of Carl and Anna Anderson, who immigrated to America in 1878 and who, after remaining about four months in the city of Chicago, came to Nebraska. The father obtained wild land in Hamilton county and instituted the development of the fine farm now owned and occupied by his son Emil, the immediate subject of this review. On this old homestead Carl Anderson passed the remainder of his life, and here he died at the age of seventy years. On first coming to the county he rented land, but in 1888 purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, this being the farm which he brought to productiveness and which represented his home at the time of his death, his widow being now a resident of Tacoma, Washington.

Emil Anderson was reared and educated in Hamilton county and he recalls that in his boyhood days Indians were still in evidence in this section of the state, while herds of antelopes were frequently to be seen. He was reared under the conditions and influences of the pioneer farm which is the present stage of his activities and which he rents from his widowed mother. He recalls the little sod house of two rooms which was the first home of the family and realizes fully the burdens and

responsibilities borne by his honored parents in connection with the hardships that marked the pioneer period in the history of this section of Nebraska. He has literally grown up with the country and has continuously been associated with farm enterprise, having assumed control of the old home farm in the year 1900, and his success has been on a par with his energy and good judgment in his agricultural and live stock enterprise. The family name is one that has long been honored in connection with the civic and industrial history of Hamilton county, and he is fully upholding its prestige.

In 1900 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Anderson to Miss Emma Bergmark, daughter of John Bergmark, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work, and the two children of this union are Myrtle and Irving.

Mr. Anderson's political allegiance is given to the republican party; he served as township assessor in 1919-20 and has given effective service also as moderator of the school board of his district. He and his wife hold membership in the Swedish Mission church of their community.

LEVI E. OTTO

For twenty-eight years Levi E. Otto was a resident of the state of Nebraska and his death occurred at Aurora on the 12th of January, 1916. He had been living retired in Aurora since 1911 and his death caused a deep feeling of bereavement to sweep the community in which he had made so many friends.

Levi E. Otto was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, on the 26th of April, 1861, and when four years of age removed with his parents to McLean county, Illinois, where he was reared on a farm. He received his education in the country schools of the county and after putting his textbooks aside engaged in farming with his father until twenty-one years of age. In 1884 he came to Hamilton county, but later returned to Illinois, where he was married in 1885. In 1888 Mr. Otto came to Nebraska and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of fine land in Deepwell township, for twenty-five dollars per acre. He brought this land to a state of high cultivation and continued to add to it until he was finally in possession of fourteen hundred acres of well improved land. He engaged in stock feeding on quite an extensive scale and put most of his land in grain. It was not long before he became a very well known member of the community in which he resided and was widely recognized as a successful and progressive agriculturist. Not only was Mr. Otto prominent in agricultural circles but he was one of the organizers and president of the Phillips Bank for many years and was also largely interested in the elevator and lumber yards at that place.

On the 8th of March, 1885, occurred the marriage of Mr. Otto and Miss Louella Barbee, a native of McLean county, Illinois, and to them the following children were born: Edgar, who is residing on the home farm; Homer, who is farming in Hamilton county; Gertrude, now the wife of Frank Wright, a Hamilton county farmer; Harvey, who is residing in Deepwell township; Lester and Clarence, both farmers of Hamilton county; and Dorothy, at home. Homer and Clarence run a



MR. AND MRS. LEVI E. OTTO

dairy near Aurora. One child, Clara, died at the age of six months. All the children with the exception of Clara, were born in Nebraska.

The life of Mr. Otto was one of diligence and industry and as a result his last years were spent in retirement. He was one of the foremost agriculturists and stock feeders in the community and in both business and financial circles of Phillips he was also prominent. He was the second largest taxpayer in Hamilton county in personal property. Their first property of one hundred and sixty acres had few small improvements when he bought. He developed this all. Mr. Otto was always active in any movement for the development and improvement of the community and for many years was a member of the school board. His death left a void in the community that will be hard to fill for in his passing Aurora and Hamilton county lost a representative citizen.

JOHN TAYLOR

For the past fifteen years John Taylor has been residing retired in Edgar, enjoying a life of ease and comfort as the result of former years spent in intelligently directed industry. A native of Ohio, Mr. Taylor was born in Urbana on the 20th of August, 1845, a son of J. C. V. and Lucinda J. (Van Meter) Taylor, both natives of Ohio, where they resided all their lives. The father was a prominent and successful farmer of the community in which he resided and he also conducted a mill for several years. Six children were born to that union, three of whom are living: John, whose name initiates this review; Jennie B., a resident of Urbana, Ohio; and J. S., who is living in Seattle, Washington. Both Mr. and Mrs. Taylor were consistent members of the Presbyterian church and fraternally he was identified with the Odd Fellows. Throughout his life he was a stanch republican and for many years served as assessor of his native county.

John Taylor received his education in the country schools of his native county and entered the Union army at the age of sixteen years, enlisting in Company G, Sixty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served three years and eight months. He was in the army of the Potomac until the battle of Chickamauga and then was transferred to the army of the Cumberland. He participated in the battles of Lookout Mountain, Gettysburg and Peach Tree Creek. At the close of the war he returned to Ohio and engaged in farming until 1865, when he removed to Illinois and worked out on farms for four or five years. At the end of that time he again returned to Ohio, where he was married. A man of great force and determination and one eager to grasp every opportunity offered, he decided to come west in 1886 and as a result located in Clay county. He purchased a farm consisting of eighty acres before he removed to the county and this land he brought to a high state of cultivation and sold at a time of high prices. For several years Mr. Taylor was auctioneer for the surrounding community and along this line demonstrated a great amount of ability. For fifteen years he has been living retired in Edgar, where he is readily conceded to be a representative citizen.

In 1873 in Ohio occurred the marriage of Mr. Taylor and Miss Frances R. Barger, a native of the vicinity near Urbana, and a daughter of F. M. and Sarah

(Strayer) Barger, both natives of Virginia. At an early day they removed to Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have become the parents of six children, four of whom are living; Joe B., a farmer of Clay Center; Margaret, who is the wife of Ed. T. Wise, also farming in Clay county; Frank, who is residing on a farm; and Paul, working in an oil field in Rock River, Wyoming.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Taylor the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the republican party and the principles for which it stands. He has always taken an active interest in the development and improvement of the community but has neither sought nor desired public office. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Taylor takes an active part in the affairs of that organization, for the promotion of which she cheerfully gives a large portion of her time. Laudable ambition has prompted Mr. Taylor at every point in his career and his enterprise and diligence have gained him his present-day success.

ASHLEY BENNETT

Since 1905 Ashley Bennett has been residing retired in Sutton. For many years he has been prominent in the agricultural circles of Clay county and has arrived at his present success solely through his own effort. A native of Wisconsin, his birth occurred in Argyle, October 12, 1846. His father died when he was but a baby and his mother later married Levi Jacobs by whom he was reared, knowing no other father. He is the only child now living who was born to the first marriage of his mother. Four children were born to the latter marriage, Clarissa Davis of Morrill being the only one living.

Ashley Bennett received his education in the country schools of Wisconsin and acquired a good education. He was quick to learn, applied himself diligently and was in every sense of the word a fine student. He remained with his parents on the home farm until 1873, when he came to Clay county and purchased two hundred and forty acres of railroad and school land. He had but sixteen hundred dollars when he arrived there. Sutton was at that time sparsely populated, having but four homes and four business buildings. Mr. Bennett set about immediately to put the land in cultivation and as a result of his energy and determination his land became some of the most productive in the county. Until 1905 he remained on his farm but in that year decided to retire from active life and removed to Sutton, where he bought a nice piece of property on which he erected a comfortable residence. In 1920 he sold his farm, on which he realized a substantial sum.

In 1868 Mr. Bennett was united in marriage to Miss Mary Humphrey, a native of New York state and a daughter of John and Margaret (Lamerson) Humphrey, the former born in New Jersey and the latter in New York. Mr. Humphrey was a successful farmer there and they both passed away in that state. He had been twice married and was the father of twenty-one children, sixteen by the first union and five by the latter. Mrs. Bennett was the youngest of the children born to the second union, and is the only one living. The parents of Mrs. Bennett were con-

sistent members of the Baptist church. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Bennett one son, Floyd, has been born. He is married and has three children: Alton and Olive, who are attending school; and Ashley, eighteen months old. Floyd Bennett makes his home in Denver, Colorado, and during the war worked for the government in machine shops.

The political allegiance of Ashley Bennett is given to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. He has never sought nor desired public office, however, preferring to devote his entire time to his farming interests. The religious faith of both Mr. Bennett and his wife is that of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is fraternally identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Bennett may well be called a self-made man, for he started out in life empty handed and by his persistence and energy has won independence and financial success. Today he stands among his fellowmen honored for his sterling character, his pertinacity of purpose and his well merited attainments. Mrs. Bennett belongs to the Daughters of the American Revolution.

CHRISTIAN SCHLIESKE

Among the prominent and successful agriculturists whom Germany has contributed to the ranks of those active in the development of the state of Nebraska few are more favorably known than Christian Schlieske. He was born in Germany on the 5th of July, 1836, and in 1872 came to the United States.

Upon the arrival of Mr. Schlieske in this country he made his way first to Rock Island, Illinois, where he remained for two and one-half years. At the termination of that time he determined to remove further west and in November of the year 1874 arrived in Hamilton county, Nebraska. He then homesteaded his present place of eighty acres and built thereon a house of sod with dirt floor and brush roof. He set about to break his land which he succeeded in accomplishing with the aid of ox teams. The first year of his residence on the homestead he put under cultivation seven acres of land and the second year, thirty-five. When Mr. Schlieske, his wife and family arrived in the United States they had practically nothing and Mr. Schlieske hauled his neighbors' grain to Sutton, a distance of thirty-four miles, for the sum of two dollars per load. He was ever ambitious and energetic, and it seemed that every discouragement and misfortune but spurred him on to greater effort. His first two crops were destroyed by the grasshopper storms and the droughts of the '90s. For about two years Mr. Schlieske and his family lived in the old sod house and then he built another sod dwelling, which he improved upon by the addition of a board floor and sod roof. Mr. Schlieske now has one hundred and sixty acres, having added an additional eighty acre tract to the original homestead. This land is located in section 2, Valley township, and is well improved, having a set of modern buildings and is now being farmed by a son, Henry.

In 1864 in Germany Mr. Schlieske was married to Ernestine Erdman, whose death occurred in 1913. To them nine children were born: Adolph, who passed away at the age of fifty years; Carl, deceased; William, whose death occurred at the age of eighteen years; Hulda, who is now Mrs. Herman Stage; Fred, whose

death occurred at the age of three years; Tillie, who is the wife of Otto Grodske; Sophia, the wife of Ed. Gausman of Elba; Mary, who is the wife of R. Fenster of Waco; and Henry, who is farming the home place.

Mr. Schlieske is a consistent member of the German Lutheran church of Hampton and is a generous contributor to all of its charities. His life has been one of hardship and labor, but he is now reaping the reward to which he is so justly entitled.

JAMES ROLLO

Courageous and self-reliant were the men whose ambitions led them to determine to cast in their lot with the new commonwealth of Nebraska in the earlier stages of its development and among the pioneers of Hamilton county to whom must be ascribed marked priority in the matter of comparatively early settlement within its borders was the late James Rollo, who here established his home in the year following that of the admission of Nebraska to the Union.

Mr. Rollo was born in Scotland on the 15th of April, 1840, and was there reared to adult age, his educational advantages having been those of the common schools. He was a youth of nineteen years when he accompanied his parents on their immigration to the United States and the family home was established in the state of Wisconsin. There James Rollo found employment by the month, principally at farm work, and he continued his residence in the Badger state until 1868, in November of which year he arrived in Hamilton county, Nebraska. In company with his brother-in law, John Salmon, he made the overland journey from Wisconsin with team and wagon and upon his arrival entered claim to a homestead of eighty acres in what is now Farmers Valley township. His first house was a dugout and this was later replaced by a log house on the bank of the Blue river. He made good improvements on his farm in the passing years and though he met with the losses and reverses common to the pioneer settlers he never wavered in his faith in Nebraska and continued to work with courage and singleness of purpose until substantial rewards became his, as is shown in the fact that at the time of his death he was here the owner of a valuabled farm property of four hundred acres.

A man of superior mentality and sterling character, James Rollo had much of leadership in community affairs during the period of his residence in Hamilton county. He was a republican in politics, had the distinction of serving as the first coroner of the county and held also the office of constable and that of member of the school board of his district. His loyalty to the land of his adoption was significantly manifested by his giving nearly two years of service as a soldier of the Union in the Civil war. He enlisted in a Wisconsin volunteer regiment of infantry, took part in a number of battles and minor engagements and was finally incapacitated by the loss of the sight of one eye as a result of an attack of typhoid fever while he was still in service at the front. In later years he showed his abiding interest in his old comrades by maintaining active affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic.

Mr. Rollo married Jessie Bothwick, whose death occurred about the year 1881,

he having long survived her, passing away in the year 1912, secure in his status as one of the honored and venerable pioneers of Hamilton county. Four children survive the parents, namely: Walter, John, Jessie (Mrs. James Bird), and Robert J.

Walter Rollo, eldest of the children, was born on the pioneer farm in Hamilton county, June 20, 1874, and was reared under the conditions and influences of the pioneer period in the history of this section of the state. He early gained close fellowship with the work of the farm and in addition to receiving the advantages of the local schools he completed a course in a business college in the city of Omaha. He has had full appreciation of the county of his birth and has had no desire to sever his connection with it, and he here holds secure vantage ground as a progressive agriculturist and stock raiser and as a citizen who is well upholding the prestige of the family name. In 1913 he took possession of his present farm in section 19, Farmers Valley township, comprising one hundred and eighty acres and the modern buildings on the place erected by him and the other excellent improvements are tokens of his vital and progressive policies. In connection with diversified agriculture he gives special attention to the raising of fine Holstein cattle and registered Clydesdale horses.

In 1903 was solemnized the marriage of Walter Rollo to Mrs. Eva-Linna Salmon, widow of Peter Salmon and a daughter of the late John Goff. Mrs. Rollo entered into eternal rest in the year 1915 and is survived by two children, James and William. In 1918 Mr. Rollo wedded Miss Gertrude James and they have one child, Evelyn. The attractive family home is a center of hospitality. Mr. Rollo is serving as treasurer of the school board of his district and is otherwise influential in community affairs, as a liberal and public-spirited citizen.

JACOB E. GEORGE

Among the enterprising and progressive citizens that Russia has furnished to Hamilton county is numbered Jacob E. George who won his success through his farming operations and is now living retired in Aurora, enjoying the comforts and luxuries of life by reason of his former industry and toil. He was born in southern Russia, October 30, 1851, and was there educated. He took up the profession of teaching which he followed for four years before coming to the new world, teaching in both the German and Russian languages. He had been educated in the Gymnasium school and at length determined to try his fortune in the new world, crossing the Atlantic in 1874. He at once made his way to Nebraska and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land. For a few months he worked for a farmer at fifteen dollars per month and then his employer advanced him fifty-six dollars and he made his first payment on his farm. He continued with his employer, however, for two years and in the meantime was getting a start on his land. He first built a sod house in 1875 and when his parents came to the new world he gave them the primitive little dwelling. Subsequently he built another sod house and in 1878 built his first frame house which contained two rooms. He lived on the farm until 1884, continuing its cultivation year by year until that time, when he traded the property for a farmers' flour mill in the southern part of the

county. He afterward bought more land, however, when he sold his mill in 1889, acquiring three eighty-acre tracts in York county. This he subsequently sold and bought more land in Hamilton county. He now owns eleven hundred and twenty acres of land, all of which has been acquired through his own efforts and from his property he derives a most substantial and gratifying annual income. All of this land is now very valuable and would sell at a high figure. He has always displayed sound judgment in making his investments and his business record is such as should serve to inspire and encourage others, showing what can be accomplished through resolute will intelligently directed.

On the 25th of November, 1877, Mr. George was married to Christina Eberhardt, a native of Russia and a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Eberhardt. Her father, who was a blacksmith, died in Russia but the mother afterward came to the United States and passed away in Mississippi. To them were born eleven children, five of whom are living, Mrs. George being the eldest. By her marriage she has become the mother of six children, five of whom survive: Louisa, the wife of C. K. Penner, a dairyman of York county, Nebraska; William C., a minister of the German Methodist Episcopal church, who was educated in Warrenton, Missouri, and Chicago, and is now located at Clatonia, Nebraska; Emil, who is on his father's home farm; John J., who is engaged in farming in Hamilton county; and Mollie, the wife of Helmuth Griess, also a farmer of Hamilton county. Annie is deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. George are loyal supporters of the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics he is a republican. He has served on the school board, has been road supervisor and at all times is loyal to the interests and welfare of his adopted county. Since 1913 he has made his home in Aurora, purchasing a residence at No. 905 K street which he rebuilt in 1915 and which is today a modern and attractive dwelling. There amid pleasant surroundings he is spending the evening of life. He has reached the Psalmist's allotted span of threescore years and ten but in spirit and interests seems yet a man in his prime.

HENRY WUNDERLICH

Henry Wunderlich, a retired farmer now living in Giltner, Nebraska, engaged in general farming and stock raising in Hamilton county from 1878 to 1914. He was born in Illinois, March 10, 1843, a son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Shuman) Wunderlich, both natives of Germany. The parents came to the United States in 1840 on an old sailing vessel and located on a farm in Illinois.

Henry Wunderlich received his education in the common schools of Illinois, which schools were conducted in primitive log houses, and he later went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he entered a parish school. After putting his textbooks aside he started to work on his father's farm in Illinois, remaining in that state until 1856, when he removed with his parents to Minnesota. He was married in that state and followed farming there for twelve years, renting land for three years and later purchasing eighty acres. His first home on the Minnesota land was built from the timber secured on the farm. In 1878 he decided to come west, with the result that he located in Hamilton county, going as far as Grand Island



HENRY WUNDERLICH AND FAMILY

by train. He purchased three hundred and twenty acres of railroad land in this county for four dollars per acre and broke his own land. For five weeks he made his home in a nearby schoolhouse but then built a small frame house and slab barn on his own place to which he removed. He put out trees and planted a large orchard, the latter having mostly died, and he now has a fine small vineyard. At first he was compelled to haul all of his necessities from Grand Island and he obtained his fuel by cutting willows from along the banks of the Platte river, also burning cornstalks. Mr. Wunderlich experienced many hardships and has been snowed in for many days when severe blizzards hit that section of the country. He has built two sets of good improvements on the land and he achieved a substantial amount of success in his general farming and stock raising. Mr. Wunderlich has always taken an active interest in the development and improvement of the community and for several years he served on the school board of District 41. He was also road overseer for six years.

In Winona, Minnesota, occurred the marriage of Mr. Wunderlich and Miss Rosana Felzer, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Maier) Felzer. Her parents were both natives of Germany, having been born near the river Rhine. They came to the United States in 1840, taking nine weeks to make the journey, and first settled in Maryland. From there they removed to Pennsylvania and later to Minnesota, where the father followed the blacksmith's trade. Mr. and Mrs. Wunderlich have become the parents of ten children: Elizabeth, who is the wife of Jacob J. Lindgren of Albany, Oregon; John, who is engaged in farming in Hamilton county; Frank, who died March 31, 1921; Elnora C., the wife of Charles Wanek, a farmer of Hamilton county; Charles H., deceased; George L., of Colorado Springs, Colorado; William M., a farmer of Burwell, Nebraska; Rudolph, who is farming in Hamilton county; Edith M., the wife of Otto Shaffer, a Hamilton county farmer; and Janette, deceased.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Wunderlich the right of franchise he has been an independent voter, giving his support to the man he thinks most fitted for the position. The Wunderlich family are members of the Catholic church at Giltner, in the activities of which they take a prominent part. Mr. Wunderlich has lived a useful, active and busy life, as has also his wife, and whatever success he has achieved has come to him as the reward of ability and industry. He has been a dominant factor in the upbuilding of this section of the country and has been a witness of its progress and improvement. Mr. and Mrs. Wunderlich celebrated their golden wedding April 8, 1916.

GUST W. SANDIN

Gust W. Sandin, who has the agency at Aurora for the Ford car and also maintains a garage and repair shop in connection with his salesrooms, was born in Sweden, April 6, 1878, and his parents, A. G. and Gustava (Ericson) Sandin, were also natives of that country. The father, who was a tool maker by trade, died in Sweden and Mrs. Sandin was remarried in Sweden, to P. A. Ekberg, and brought the family to the United States in 1890, settling in Polk county, where

they resided until 1896, when she removed to Marquette, Nebraska. Mr. Ekberg was a farmer by occupation and has passed away. Mrs. P. A. Ekberg had a family of three sons by her first marriage, of whom two are living: Fred and Gust, who are associated in business. One son, Sigfred, died at Swedehome, Nebraska, at the age of thirty-six years. The mother was a member of the Lutheran church and was a woman of many sterling qualities, devoted to her family and doing everything in her power to qualify her children for life's practical and responsible duties.

Gust W. Sandin was educated in the schools of Sweden to the age of twelve years, when he came to the United States with his mother and stepfather and then started out to earn his own living. For ten years he was connected with farming west of Marquette and eventually purchased the Baleys homestead of two hundred acres. Later he sold this land when he turned his attention to the automobile business in Marquette in 1909. There he remained until 1914 but established his garage in Aurora in 1912. He began handling the Ford car and has since had the agency for this. He also has a branch agency at Giltner. His business has reached extensive proportions and in addition to selling many cars annually he does all kinds of Ford repairing. He is energetic, alert and determined and carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

In 1900 Mr. Sandin was married to Miss Edna Cowling, who was born in Ohio, a daughter of John W. Cowling, who in 1889 became a resident of Marquette, Nebraska, and devoted his life to the occupation of farming. Mr. and Mrs. Sandin have become parents of six children: Ada, who was a teacher in the schools of Hamilton county for two years and now occupies a position with Hainer, Craft & Edgerton, attorneys of Aurora, was graduated from the high school at Aurora when sixteen years of age; Freda is now a high school pupil; Mabel, Phyllis and Gust W. are also in school; and Wilbur, two years of age, completes the family.

Mr. Sandin is a Scottish Rite Mason and Noble of the Mystic Shrine and he also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In politics he maintains an independent course, voting according to the dictates of his judgment with little regard for party ties. For three years he served as assessor while in Marquette but does not seek nor desire political preferment, as his time is fully occupied by his business affairs and though he started out to make his own living when but twelve years of age and had no financial resources at all at the outset of his career, he is today one of the men of affluence in Aurora, occupying an enviable position in its business circles.

RICHARD H. PEARD

In the year 1872 variously equipped "prairie schooners" were to be seen making their way across the prairies from the east to Hamilton county, Nebraska, and one of these with its more or less jaded teams, was that occupied by Richard H. Peard, the sterling citizen whose name introduces this review, who was destined to do well his allotted part in connection with the civic and material development and upbuilding of the county, he having been about twenty-six years of age at the time of his arrival in the county.

Mr. Peard was born in England, in 1846, and is a son of Richard and Grace (Buckingham) Peard, the father having been a prosperous farmer in his native land. The subject of this review gained his early education principally in boarding schools in England, and in 1867, the year in which he attained his legal majority, he severed home ties and set out to seek his fortunes in the United States. He made his way to Wisconsin, where he was variously employed for some time and where also he initiated independent enterprise as a farmer. In 1872 he came with team and wagon to Nebraska and en route crossed both the Mississippi and Missouri rivers on ferry-boats. Upon his arrival in Hamilton county he filed preemption and timber claims and on his land his first domicile was a house constructed partly of framed timber and partly of sod. In the building of this pioneer structure he hauled the requisite timber overland from Grand Island and his early crops of grain he transported in a similar way to Hastings. He finally sold his two claims and then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land, at five dollars per acre and eighty acres of school land, for seven dollars per acre. He vigorously set himself to the task of reclaiming his land and making it available for cultivation and he had his share of losses through droughts and grasshoppers, the grasshoppers entirely destroying his crops except such wheat as he had already harvested. He made appreciable improvements on his second acquirement of land. He was later elected sheriff of the county, whereupon he removed to Aurora, the county seat. He held this office one term, in an excellent administration. Thereafter he was for five years an efficient assistant in the office of the county clerk and then resumed his active association with farm enterprise, on land which he had purchased near the village of Phillips while living at Aurora. He made this one of the model farms of the county and the valuable property still remains in possession of his widow, this being still the family home, the farm lying adjacent to the corporate limits of Phillips. Mr. Peard depended solely upon his own ability and efforts in making his way to the goal of financial and economic independence and his success has been worthily won, as is shown in the high position which he held in popular esteem. His political allegiance was given to the republican party, he was reared in and held to the faith of the Protestant Episcopal church, represented in his native land by the established Church of England, and his wife is a zealous member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Phillips. The first crop of corn raised by Mr. Peard in Hamilton county was that obtained from eleven acres of the virgin prairie soil which he had prepared for cultivation. He hauled fuel from the Platte river to his pioneer farm and also utilized corn for fuel, and he and his wife otherwise resorted to various expedients made necessary by conditions in the pioneer days.

In Hamilton county was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Peard to Miss Albertina James, who was born in Illinois, a daughter of Robert James, who came overland with his family to Hamilton county in 1872 and took up a preemption claim in the present township of Phillips, where he had barely initiated the work of reclamation when his labors were ended in death in 1874. His widow survived him twenty years and passed to eternal rest in 1894.

Mr. and Mrs. Peard became the parents of eight children, of whom four are living: Ethel is the widow of William Dresher and still maintains her home in Hamilton county; Richard H. is now at home and was one of the gallant young

men who represented Hamilton county in the nation's military ranks in the great World war, his training having been received in four different army camps and his service having covered a period of sixteen months, though he was not called to active duty overseas; Hazel and Frank, twins, are the younger members of the home circle. Mrs. Peard moved to her present home in 1903.

JAY J. JONES

Jay J. Jones is now living retired in Clay Center, although for many years he was actively identified with farming interests, his success in the cultivation of his fields bringing to him the prosperity that now enables him to enjoy a well earned rest. He was born in Woodstock, Illinois, in 1865, a son of J. W. and Mary E. (Brown) Jones, the former a native of New York, while the latter was born in New Hampshire. They were married, however, in Illinois, having removed to that state in early life and there the father afterward followed the occupation of farming. In 1865 he went with his family to Minnesota and in July, 1876, they arrived in Clay county, Nebraska, where Mr. Jones purchased railroad land and built a frame house. He then concentrated his efforts and attention upon the development and improvement of his farm, on which he lived for several years. In fact his death occurred on the old home place, while his widow died when visiting her son in Lincoln, Nebraska. They held membership in the Christian church and Mr. Jones was also loyal as a supporter of the republican party. He was a son of John Jones, a native of Wales, who on leaving the old world established his home in New York, where he spent his remaining days. The maternal grandfather, Joshua Brown, was a pioneer of Minnesota and there resided until called to his final rest. In the family of J. W. and Mary Jones were ten children, of whom four are living: J. D., who was employed on the Burlington Railroad from 1884 until October, 1920; H. E., a resident farmer of Minnesota; W. M., a carpenter of Bethany, Nebraska; and Jay J.

The last named obtained his education in the schools of Minnesota and of Clay county, Nebraska, and when his textbooks were put aside concentrated his efforts and attention upon the work of the home farm. He continued to engage in agricultural pursuits, save for the years 1883 and 1884 when he worked in the Burlington bridge shop at Lincoln, Nebraska. He then returned to Clay county, went on his father's place and there resided until 1890, when he removed to his brother-in-law's farm, but continued to cultivate both tracts of land. In 1892 he bought eighty acres on time and afterward added to his holdings until his landed possessions now include four hundred acres of valuable farm property. Many improvements have been added thereto and his farm is one of the attractive places in this section of the county. He has made every dollars he possesses and whatever success and opportunity he has had in life is due to his own careful planning and able management. He is now working at the carpenter's trade, for a life of indolence and idleness is utterly abhorrent to him and while he derives a substantial income from his farm holdings he prefers to have some business cares rather than to live absolutely retired.

In 1886 Mr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Ella M. Hayes, who was born in Knoxville, Illinois, a daughter of John M. and Nancy (Hockenberry) Hayes, who were natives of Pennsylvania and Virginia, respectively, and were married in the latter state. At an early day they removed to Illinois and the father there followed the occupation of farming, both he and his wife dying in that state. Their daughter, Mrs. Jones, was their only child. Both parents were members of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Hayes voted with the republican party.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jones have been born four children: Jesse Ernest, who is engaged in the oil business at Laramie, Wyoming; Inez, the wife of Foster Mock, living on her father's farm; Bessie Myrtle, wife of Fred Mock, also on the farm; and Ruby Jones, who is a high school pupil. In his political views Mr. Jones is a republican. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and both he and his wife are members of the Christian church. In 1918 they removed to Clay Center, where he purchased an attractive home and there they are living among many friends, his enterprise and diligence in former years supplying them now with all the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

THOMAS TIMMONS

Thomas Timmons is one of the many men actively engaged in the cultivation of the soil of Hamilton county, of which he has been a resident since April, 1873. A native of Maryland, he was born in that state on the 15th of June, 1842, a son of Stephen Timmons. His father removed from Maryland to Indiana about 1869 and there resided until his death, which occurred at the age of sixty-five years.

Thomas Timmons came to Hamilton county about April, 1873, driving through from Ottumwa, Iowa, the trip being made with a yoke of cattle and covering a period of about four weeks. In the spring of that year Thomas Timmons homesteaded eighty acres in the county and on that prairie land he made a dugout in which he resided for four years. At the termination of that time he moved onto the flats and there built a sod house. He broke some of his land with his oxen, but finding them too slow, sold them and purchased a team of horses. When Thomas Timmons arrived on this land he had in his possession twenty dollars, one cow, and a plow. He soon had his land in a state of cultivation, however, and there were plenty of wild birds and a few deer from which to obtain meat. Central City was then the closest trading post and was known as Lone Tree. Mr. Timmons is still residing on his original eighty acre tract in section 34, Bluff township, which is highly improved and on which stand good buildings, those structures having been built by Mr. Timmons himself. His brother, Lem, came to Hamilton county about 1880.

In 1884 Mr. Timmons was united in marriage to Miss Rhoda Benson, the event taking place in Ottumwa, Iowa. To them seven children have been born: Mary and Alice, both deceased; Benjamin, who is residing in Hamilton county; Ethel Benson of Hamilton county; Sally Jensen, also a resident of Hamilton county; and Amos is residing on the home place, and runs his father's farm; and Ernest, who is at home.

The earnest and persistent work of Mr. Timmons has been the source of his success, enabling him to surpass many who started out in life earlier or more advantageously. His record may well serve as a source of encouragement to others, showing what may be accomplished by one who has the will to dare and to do.

ANDREW PETERSON

His own industry, economy and careful management brought to the late Andrew Peterson a large degree of success in his farm enterprise in Hamilton county, and though he worked hard and practiced utmost self-denial in getting a start, he gradually made his way forward to the plane of prosperity, and ever ascribed a large share of his success to the earnest and effective cooperation of his devoted wife, who since his death has remained on the old home place, in section 11, Otis township, and who has proved a specially capable and discriminating business woman. Both Mr. and Mrs. Peterson were born and reared in Sweden. He came to the United States when about twenty-five years of age and his future wife came as a young woman of twenty-two years, their marriage being solemnized at Hampton, Hamilton county, Nebraska, in 1880, a date which indicates that they had their share of pioneer experiences in this county. Mr. Peterson died in the year 1900, at the age of fifty-five years, secure in the confidence and respect of the people of Hamilton county, where he had long lived and labored to worthy ends. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson became the parents of the following children: Mrs. Mary Carlson; Charles; Mrs. Selma Burkman; Mrs. Ida Bush; Arthur; and Mrs. Ellen Bowers. All of the children are residents of Hamilton county and Arthur remains with his widowed mother on the old home farm, of which he has the active management. Two other children have passed away. The maiden name of Mrs. Peterson was Emma H. Erickson and she gained her early education in the schools of her native land.

Mr. Peterson made the overland journey from Illinois to Nebraska with a wagon and team of horses and on his arrival his available cash capital was reduced to twenty-five cents. He found work by the day and though his wages were not large he continued his service as a farm workman and carefully saved his earnings until he became able to purchase a tract of land and engage in independent farm enterprise. From an average wage of twenty dollars a month he eventually accumulated one thousand four hundred dollars and thus fortified he purchased eighty acres of land, but two years later traded this property for the present homestead farm on which his widow resides. This latter farm he reclaimed from the raw prairie and here the original dwelling which he erected was a small frame house of two rooms. It is interesting to record that Mr. Peterson had great fondness for the fine team of horses which he brought from Illinois and that he ever gave to these horses the best of care, retaining them in his possession until they died. While living in their original sod house Mr. and Mrs. Peterson experienced no little hardship and at times had to burn corn and cornstalks for fuel, though much of the time fuel for the little home was obtained by cutting trees along the bank of the Platte river. Industry and perseverance brought success to Mr. Peterson





MR. AND MRS. ANDREW PETERSON

in his independent farm enterprise, and at the time of his death he was the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of land, well improved and under effective cultivation. His widow has kept the place up to the high standard which he set and since his death has added two hundred and eighty acres to the family holdings, working five hundred and sixty acres with five different sets of buildings on this land. Though her son Arthur is now her able aid, Mrs. Peterson takes great satisfaction in maintaining a general supervision of her farm property and incidental business interests. She is an earnest communicant of the Lutheran church, as was also her husband, and he signalized his civic loyalty by doing his part in the furtherance of measures advanced for the general good of the community, while he gave his political allegiance to the republican party, to which his widow also gives her political support.

CHARLES H. EPPERSON

Charles H. Epperson, engaged in law practice in Clay Center as the partner of his father, A. C. Epperson, mentioned elsewhere in this work, was born on the 1st of September, 1892, in the city which is still his home. In the acquirement of his education he attended the Clay Center high school and afterward matriculated in the State University, completing a course in literature with the class of 1915 and a course in law with the class of 1916. During his last term in school he was editor of the Nebraskan and was a member of the Silver Links fraternity during his college days. He also became a member of the Sigma Delta Chi, a journalistic fraternity, and of the Phi Delta Alpha, a law fraternity. He likewise belonged to the Phi Alpha Tau, a public speaking fraternity and dramatic club. His various activities during his college days made him a favorite with his fellow students and friendships begun at that time have since maintained.

With his graduation on the completion of his law course Mr. Epperson entered into active practice in association with his father and this connection has continued, the firm of Epperson & Epperson ranking as one of the foremost at the bar of Clay county.

On the 22d of July, 1916, Mr. Epperson was united in marriage to Miss Beulah McCaw, who was born in Belvidere, Nebraska, a daughter of Dr. H. E. McCaw, who was one of the pioneers of that place and is now living in Missoula, Montana. Mr. and Mrs. Epperson have become parents of a daughter, Catherine Blanche, who was born April 3, 1919; and a son, Charles Hugh, born April 11th, 1921.

Mr. Epperson entered the army as a student at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, on the 27th of August, 1917, and was commissioned a first lieutenant on the 27th of November of that year. He was then assigned to Camp Custer, Michigan, and was promoted to a captaincy in August, 1918, receiving his discharge in March, 1919. He still holds a commission as captain in the United States Reserves. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons and is a prominent member of the American Legion. He served on the executive committee for the year 1919-20 and is a member of the republican state central committee, being a recognized leader in political ranks. He has recently purchased the old Patriot, changing

its name to the Republican, and thus has again taken up a line of work with which he first became familiar during his college days. He is alive to all the vital questions and issues before the state and the country at large and keeps well informed on important public problems, his position being a progressive one on many questions of importance to the community and to the commonwealth.

HARRY E. SIMS

Harry E. Sims, who since May, 1908, has been engaged in the automobile business at Aurora, was born in Hamilton county in 1883. His parents, Albert G. and Sarah E. (Dixon) Sims, are natives of Illinois, coming to Hamilton county in 1874. Here he purchased railroad land at five dollars per acre, making a partial payment on the property and meeting further payments from time to time until he had cleared his place of all indebtedness. He first occupied a sod house and later erected a frame dwelling on his land. Year by year he continued to cultivate his fields and brought his farm to a high point of improvement. He removed to Aurora in 1913, at which time he retired from active business but he still owns the old homestead which comprises two hundred and forty acres of land and in addition has other farm property. He came to the county empty-handed but has steadily worked his way upward and by determination and energy has overcome all difficulties and obstacles in his path. He passed through the hardships of the early days and has lived to see marked changes in the county, bearing his part at all times in the work of general progress and improvement. He and his wife attend the Methodist Episcopal church and he belongs to the Highlanders, while his political allegiance is given to the republican party. To Mr. and Mrs. Sims have been born six children, of whom five are living: Harry E.; Hollis, a farmer residing at Minatare, Nebraska; Frank, who is on the old homestead; Violet, who is in the sugar factory at Scottsbluff, Nebraska; and Leota, the wife of Irvin Otto, a real estate dealer of Aurora.

Harry E. Sims pursued his education in the country schools until he had mastered the elementary branches of learning and later was graduated from the high school of Aurora and from Doane College in the class of 1907. His youthful experiences were those of the farm bred boy and for a time in early manhood he continued to engage in the tilling of the fields and the cultivation of the crops. Later, however, he turned his attention to the automobile business, establishing a sales agency and garage in May, 1908. Through the intervening period he has been engaged in the sale of Buick and Chevrolet cars and is today the oldest automobile merchant in Aurora. He has a large garage, forty-four by ninety feet and two stories in height, and his repair shop is an important branch of his business. He handles a full line of automobile supplies and equipments of all kinds and has won substantial success through the capable management of his interests.

In 1917 Mr. Sims was married to Miss Nelle Bright, who was born in Hall county, Nebraska, a daughter of James Bright, who settled in that county in the early '80s. Mr. and Mrs. Sims have become parents of two children, Margaret and Harriett. The parents are members of the Congregational church and enjoy the confidence and goodwill of all who know them, owing to their sterling personal

worth. Mr. Sims belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and also to the Highlanders, while his political allegiance is given to the republican party. He has never been an aspirant for office, however, but gives his time and attention fully to his business affairs and by reason of his energy and close application is now numbered among the successful business men of his adopted city.

ROBERT G. THOMPSON

In his character and service the late Robert G. Thompson gave to the world a distinct assurance of sterling manhood and worthy achievement, and in his youth he went to gain pioneer experience in Nebraska, where he won substantial prosperity through his long and active association with farm industry in Hamilton county. In this county he continued his residence until the close of his life, his death occurring on the 11th of November, 1916.

Mr. Thompson was born in the state of Illinois, on the 25th of October, 1857, and was a son of David and Mary Thompson, who removed from Illinois to Wisconsin, in which latter state the death of the father occurred. In Wisconsin Robert G. Thompson was reared to adult age and received the advantages of the public schools. After the death of his father the widowed mother came with her five children to Nebraska, in the year 1871, about four years after the admission of the state to the Union, and she entered claim to a homestead in what is now Union township, Hamilton county, where she and her children thus became pioneer settlers, she having passed the remainder of her life on this old homestead, where also occurred the death of her son, Robert G. The sod house constructed on the farm continued to be the habitation of the family for several years and in the meanwhile Mr. Thompson put forth herculean efforts in connection with the reclaiming and developing of the land.

On the 1st of January, 1879, was solemnized the marriage of Robert G. Thompson to Miss Charlotte L. Powell, who was born near Montreal, Canada, a daughter of Joseph and Mary Powell, who established their residence in Wisconsin in the year 1863 and who came to Nebraska in 1872. Mr. Powell bought railroad land in Hamilton county and paid for the same at the rate of five dollars per acre. This old homestead is situated just east of the present village of Giltner. The Powell family made the journey from Wisconsin to Nebraska with wagon and teams, there having been one team of horses and another of oxen, and the equipment included a few cows. Upon the arrival of the family in Hamilton county the home was established in a sod house of two rooms. Mrs. Thompson here gained her initial experience in connection with pioneer life and she recalls vividly the conditions of the early days—in marked contrast with those which are now in evidence in this progressive and opulent section of Nebraska. She has seen antelopes and other wild game which aided in supplying the pioneer larders of the early day and she has known by definite experience the disasters wrought by droughts and by grasshoppers. Her parents were numbered among the representative pioneers of Hamilton county, where they lived and labored to goodly ends and played well their part in the development and progress along both civic and material lines.

After his marriage Mr. Thompson continued for four years in charge of the old home farm of his mother and thereafter lived a few years on another farm in the same township. He then returned to the old home place of eighty acres and erected the present excellent buildings and made such other improvements as suggested progressiveness, with the result that he made the place one of the model farms of Union township, he having owned not only this homestead but also an additional tract of twenty-two acres not far distant. He was a vigorous agriculturist and stock raiser and gave special attention to the propagation of alfalfa, which he made a profitable feature of his farm enterprise.

Robert G. Thompson was a stanch democrat in politics and was an earnest member of the Presbyterian church, as is also his widow, who now maintains her home on the outskirts of Giltner. Mr. Thompson ordered his life upon a high plane of rectitude and honor and thus to him came the fullest measure of popular confidence and esteem in the county that long represented his home and the stage of his earnest endeavors.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson became the parents of six children: Roy is a prosperous farmer in Hamilton township; Ethel, wife of Mr. McDannel resides four miles west of Giltner on a farm; Jessie, who was born in 1883, died on the 10th of November, 1904; Margaret is the wife of Rayburn Cunningham of Dawes county, Nebraska; George R. is at home; and Hazel M. is the wife of Edward Luby of Hamilton county.

J. W. ELARTON

J. W. Elarton, who passed away June 21, 1919, was through the last twenty years of his life a successful photographer of Aurora. He became a resident of Hamilton county in 1879 and thus for forty years made his home in this section of the state, winning many friends, so that his death was the occasion of deep and widespread regret. He was born in Jackson, Ohio, August 21, 1844, and was a son of William J. and Mary J. Elarton, who in 1854 removed to Iowa and continued to live in that state until they were called to the home beyond, the mother recently passing away at the notable old age of ninety-six years. They were the parents of five children, all of whom are living with the exception of Mr. Elarton of this review. Mr. and Mrs. William J. Elarton were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics he was a republican. He was engaged in the undertaking and cabinet-making business.

J. W. Elarton was but ten years of age when the family home was established in Iowa, so that his education was largely acquired in the public schools of that state. He was but seventeen years of age when in 1861 he joined Company F, Fourteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry for service in the Civil war. With his company he encamped at Davenport, Iowa, for some months and later was sent to the front, participating in a number of the hotly contested engagements which led up to the final victory that crowned the Union arms. In the battle of Shiloh he was taken prisoner and was incarcerated as a prisoner of war for four months, after which he was exchanged. On one occasion he returned home on a furlough but soon afterward rejoined his command and served altogether for three years.

When the war was over Mr. Elarton returned to Iowa and gave his attention to the wagon-making business for a time, while later he took up carpentering. In the year 1879 he removed with his family to Aurora where his remaining days were passed. During the last twenty years of his life he gave his attention to photography and was very successful in following that art, for he displayed excellent ability in securing likenesses of his patrons and his business reached substantial proportions.

It was in Iowa on the 16th of October, 1870, that Mr. Elarton was united in marriage to Miss Ella F. Nixon, a daughter of Isaac and Sarah (Bryan) Nixon. The father was a native of Pennsylvania and in 1847 removed to Iowa where he followed farming and passed away in 1864. Mrs. Nixon's father was a native of Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Nixon were parents of eleven children, their youngest child being Joseph C. Nixon, who was killed at Franklin, Tennessee, while serving in the Civil war. To Mr. and Mrs. Elarton have been born six children, but only one is living, Nellie, the wife of A. Carter, a resident of the state of Washington who follows farming and he and his wife each own a homestead.

Mr. Elarton held membership in the Congregational church and for forty-three years belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was likewise identified with the Grand Army of the Republic and served as commander of the Post at Aurora. Through this association he always maintained close comradeship with the "boys in blue" and enjoyed the reminiscences around their camp fires. His political allegiance was given to the republican party but he was never ambitious to hold political office. On coming to Aurora in 1879 he built a comfortable home but sold it after two years and erected a more commodious residence in the same block. His remaining days were here passed and he enjoyed at all times the high respect and warm regard of those with whom he was associated through business or social relations. Mrs. Elarton occupies a comfortable home at No. 1217 Tenth street in Aurora, where she is most widely and favorably known.

ANDREAS NISSEN

A native of Denmark, where he was born in the year 1851, Mr. Nissen was there reared to manhood, received the advantages of the national schools and gained practical experience in connection with farm industry, with which he there continued his active alliance until he had attained the age of thirty-one years, when, in 1882, he came to the United States and numbered himself among the pioneers of Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he purchased, at seven dollars per acre, a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Otis precinct. His financial resources were very limited, but he was fortified in energy, ambition and good judgment and thus was well equipped for meeting the duties and responsibilities that came to him in connection with the reclaiming of his land and the developing of a productive farm from the raw prairie. On his farm he erected a frame house, twenty-four feet square and concentrated his full powers in furthering his farm enterprise, with the result that cumulative success attended his efforts, though he did not escape his share of reverses, including the destruction of his crops by hail in the year 1884.

He made his labors count in definite advancement toward the goal of independence and prosperity, and today he is the owner of a well improved and valuable farm property of two hundred and forty acres, with secure status as one of the substantial citizens of his adopted county and state. He remained on the farm until 1918, when he erected his present modern and attractive residence at Kronborg, where he has since lived virtually retired, though he maintains a general supervision of his farm interests. He is found aligned in the ranks of the republican party and he and his wife are earnest communicants of the Danish Lutheran church in their home village.

In the year 1883 occurred the marriage of Mr. Nissen to Miss Marion Ostergard, who likewise is a native of Denmark and who was a young woman when she came to the United States, about the same time her future husband immigrated to this country. They have two children: Peter E. has the active management of his father's fine farm; and Anna is the wife of Peter B. Peterson of Kronborg, Nebraska.

OZIAR J. MERRILL

Oziar J. Merrill is living retired in Edgar. For many years he was prominent in the business circles of Edgar and Clay county and as the result of his ability and determination is now financially independent. He owns six or seven hundred acres of valuable land in the county and has one of the finest residences in Edgar. He was born in Fulton county, Ohio, in 1850, a son of N. and Harriett (Zimmerman) Merrill, the former a native of Maine and the latter of Ohio. Their marriage occurred in Ohio and there they resided until death. N. Merrill was prominent as an attorney and banker throughout the community in which he resided, having engaged along those lines at Wauseon. Four children were born to that union, of whom O. J., the subject of this review, is the only one living. Mr. Merrill was a Mason and an Odd Fellow and gave his political allegiance to the republican party. For nine years he served as county clerk of his county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Merrill were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and active in the charitable affairs of that organization.

In the acquirement of an education O. J. Merrill attended the schools in Wauseon, Ohio, and his first occupation after putting his textbooks aside was farming. In 1872 he came to Clay county and bought a homestead right, which he improved and upon which he resided for a short time. In 1877 he moved into Edgar and entered the mercantile business, in which connection he remained for a period of eleven years. For about eleven years after disposing of his mercantile business he resided retired, but subsequently entered active life again as a dealer in hardware, in which business he engaged until 1902, and then retired. Success has come to him as the result of his own determined effort and his ability.

Mr. Merrill has been twice married. In 1880 he married Miss Emma Nichols, a native of Wisconsin, whose death occurred in 1884. She became



MR. AND MRS. OZIAR J. MERRILL

the mother of one child, now deceased. The second marriage was celebrated in 1885, when Mr. Merrill chose as his wife Grace Wiltshire, a native of Illinois. To the second union three children have been born, two living: Bruce, engaged in the picture show business at Edgar; and Charles, an employe of the light plant at Edgar.

Mr. Merrill gives his political support to the republican party and has served on the town board. His religious faith is that of the Episcopal church. Mr. Merrill has made many friends throughout the county who appreciate his true personal worth and many sterling traits of character.

I. W. HAUGHEY, M. D.

This is preeminently an age of specialization. In few lines of business does one attempt to cover an entire field but concentrates upon a single department in order to obtain a degree of efficiency that makes for success and leadership. In keeping with this tendency Dr. Haughey is now devoting his attention to diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. He has had special training for this branch of practice and is meeting with very gratifying success in his work. A native of Iowa he was born in Davis county, January 12, 1868, and is a son of Stephen G. and Annie M. (Irvin) Haughey, who were natives of Ohio where they were reared and married. On leaving the Buckeye state they became residents of Illinois and about 1867 removed to Iowa where the death of the father occurred, while the mother passed away at the home of her son, Dr. Haughey, in Aurora. The father was a brick manufacturer and for a long period conducted a brick yard at Moulton, Iowa. During the latter part of the Civil war he served with the Union army. His people came from Ireland, while the ancestors of Dr. Haughey in the maternal line were from Scotland. Both Mr. and Mrs. Stephen G. Haughey were members of the Christian church and he was affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while his political belief was that of the republican party.

Dr. Haughey was the youngest of the family of six children, five of whom are living. His education was pursued in the schools of Moulton, Iowa, and he was graduated from the high school with the class of 1885. He afterward took a medical course in the State University of Iowa and is numbered among its alumni of 1889. He then located for practice at Palmer, Nebraska, where he continued for a few months and then removed to Elmwood, Cass county, there residing for three years. In 1893 he took up his abode in Hampton, where he continued in practice for eight years and since 1901 has made his home in Aurora. Here he remained in general practice until 1920, since which time he has specialized in the treatment of diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. He has taken post-graduate work at Harvard University on the eye and in the Children's Hospital on the throat. He also pursued a course at Camp Greenleaf, Georgia, during the period of the World war. He enlisted for service in the army, reporting for duty August 7, 1918, and was discharged on the 6th of December following, having spent nine weeks at Camp Greenleaf, two weeks at Camp Sevier, North Carolina, and the remainder of the time at Camp Wheeler, Macon, Georgia.

On the 12th of March, 1891, Dr. Haughey was united in marriage to Miss Mary J. Humphreys who was born in Davis county, Iowa, a daughter of Lewis Humphreys who in an early day removed to Otoe county, Nebraska. He was a minister of the Christian church for a number of years and preached in various places through a period of three decades, being regarded as one of the able representatives of the Christian ministry in this section of the country. Two children have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Haughey: Irene E., who attended the high school and spent a part of one year at Simpson College at Indianola, Iowa, and is now at home; Lois H., who also completed the high school course and for a part of a year was a student in the State University at Nebraska.

Dr. Haughey gives his political allegiance to the republican party and was a member of the park board of Aurora for a number of years. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons, belonging to the Royal Arch Chapter, while in the consistory he has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite and has also become a member of the Mystic Shrine. He filled the master's chair for three terms and was also high priest for three terms. He and his wife are active members of the Christian church, taking a helpful interest in all that pertains to its growth and Dr. Haughey is also a member of the Rotary Club and along strictly professional lines is connected with the Hamilton County, the Nebraska State and the American Medical Associations and has served as secretary of the County organization. He is interested in all that pertains to the profession and in anything that tends to bring to man a key to the complex mystery which we call life. He is continually broadening his knowledge through study and experience and his ability is widely recognized, especially along the line upon which he is now concentrating his thoughts, efforts and attention.

EDWARD A. McVEY

The section of Nebraska to which this publication is dedicated claims Edward A. McVey as one of its venerable and honored pioneer citizens. He played a large part in the earlier stages of development and progress in Clay county and is now living in retirement in the village of Stockham, Hamilton county, not far distant from the dividing line between the two counties mentioned. He was well fortified in youthful pioneer experience, gained in the state of Iowa, and thus was ready to face the labors and hardships that might come to him when he cast in his lot with the pioneer settlers of Clay county, Nebraska.

Edward A. McVey was born in Delaware county, Indiana, January 9, 1844, and is a son of James O. and Hannah (Ward) McVey, his maternal grandfather, Edward Ward, having attained to the patriarchal age of ninety-nine years. James O. McVey continued his alliance with farm industry in Indiana until 1852, when he removed with his family to Iowa and became a pioneer farmer in Poweshiek county, where he purchased land at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre and where the original domicile of the family was a log house. Both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives in the Hawkeye state and their names merit place on the roll of the honored pioneers of that commonwealth.

Edward A. McVey was a lad of eight years at the time of the family removal to Iowa, where he was reared under the conditions and influences of the pioneer days and where, between the ages of ten and fourteen years, he attended school about three months each year. For two years he prosecuted his studies in a subscription school maintained in a pioneer log building, with rough-hewed desks and benches and with windows of oiled paper. It is needless to say that his broader education has been that gained in the school of practical experience and all who know can realize that he has profited fully by this discipline. He remained at the parental home until he was nineteen years old and then manifested his patriotism by enlisting for service in defense of the Union. In the autumn of 1863 he enlisted in Company E, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, and was mustered in at Davenport, Iowa. He proceeded with his command to the stage of conflict and with it continued in service until the close of the war. He took part in the battle of Guntown, Mississippi, where the Union forces lost their artillery and supply train and in the command of General Wilson the Fourth Iowa Cavalry went from Gravelly Spring, Alabama, to the Atlantic coast, with assignment to the tearing up of railroads, which involved almost daily conflict with Confederate forces. Mr. McVey aided in destroying a Confederate munitions factory at Selma, Alabama, and in his career as a soldier lived up to the full tension of responsibility.

After the close of the war Mr. McVey returned to the parental home and soon afterward bought eighty acres of land in Poweshiek county, Iowa. There he continued his activities as a farmer until he came to Nebraska, in 1871.

On the 20th of April, 1871, was recorded the arrival of Mr. McVey and his brother in Clay county, the journey from Iowa having been made with a covered wagon and team of mules and completed in sixteen days. In the wagon were transported also a small supply of household goods and a few farm implements. There was nothing of stately splendor in the arrival or equipment of these sterling pioneers, but they had those qualities which beget success and which make for definite communal value in the march of civilization into a new country. In what is now School Creek township, Clay county, Mr. McVey obtained a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, this having been one of the first seven homesteads entered in that township. On his land, which was unbroken prairie, he erected a small frame house, somewhat more pretentious and inviting than the average dwelling of the locality and period and said to be the first house to be equipped with a brick chimney in Clay county. The lumber and brick for this pioneer dwelling were hauled overland from Lincoln and Crete, respectively. Mrs. McVey came to this new home in October of the same year. In the sod barn which Mr. McVey constructed on his farm the only lumber utilized was that for the door. With characteristic vigor and discrimination Mr. McVey bent his energies to the reclaiming and cultivation of his land, and among early improvements which he essayed was the planting of an orchard, the trees having later been killed by hail and a similar fate attended the second orchard which he planted. In the early days he went to Lincoln for necessary supplies for the farm and household, and his grists of grain were taken to mills at Beaver Crossing and Milford. On his own farm he killed wild turkey and on the place both deer and buffaloes were seen at intervals. The family was snowbound three days during the famous Easter blizzard that visited this section in 1873 and he met with his quota of loss through droughts and

devastations by grasshoppers and fuel for the home was acquired mainly from trees along the neighboring creek. Time and well directed industry brought results and prosperity crowned the earnest efforts of Mr. McVey and his wife. He eventually became the owner of a finely improved landed estate of two hundred and forty acres in School Creek township and the old homestead place is now owned by his youngest son. Mr. McVey and his wife remained on the farm until 1908, when they removed to Stockham, Hamilton county, in which pleasant village they have since resided, in an attractive home that is equipped with all the comforts to reward them for former years of earnest endeavor.

Mr. and Mrs. McVey are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Stockham and in a fraternal way Mr. McVey is affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic. He has been influential in public affairs of local order, served twenty-eight years as justice of the peace in Clay county, where he gave a quarter of a century of service as school director of his district, besides representing that county one term in the state legislature, in its twenty-third session. He also served one term as a member of the county board of commissioners. In politics he votes in accord with his judgment as to men and measures, rather than being constrained by strict partisan dictates.

On February 7, 1866, in Poweshiek county, Iowa, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. McVey to Miss Margaret Breniman, who was born near Berne, Switzerland, and who was nine years of age at the time her parents came to the United States and established a home in Ohio, whence they removed to Iowa in the pioneer period in the history of that state. Mr. and Mrs. McVey became the parents of the following children: Mary E., who resides with her parents at Stockham; Nettie J., the wife of Delbert Call, of Aurora, Hamilton county; Oliver Clay, a farmer near Ogallala, Keith county; James E., who owns and has charge of his father's old homestead farm in Clay county; and Grace Maude, the wife of Elmer Hunter, a prosperous farmer of Hamilton county.

J. H. HAGGARD

J. H. Haggard is well known as a successful banker and agriculturist. He is prominent in financial circles as well, being vice president and a director of the Farmer's Exchange Bank at Trumbull, which institution he helped organize. As are many other prominent men of Nebraska, Mr. Haggard is a native of another state, his birth having occurred in Springfield, Sangamon county, Illinois, May 2, 1855, a son of H. F. and Frankie J. (Todd) Haggard. His parents who were both natives of Kentucky came to Illinois in prairie schooners at an early day. They secured some land, part timber, and after clearing the place built a substantial log house. There H. F. Haggard engaged in general farming until 1868 when he removed with his family to Iowa, buying land in Marshall county which he broke himself. This country was then but sparsely settled and the fuel had to be obtained from branches along the river banks which he cut and hauled to his home, a distance of nine miles. In 1887, however, the Haggard family came to Nebraska and resided in Clay county, where they became successful farmers. The mother of

J. H. Haggard passed away when he was but ten years of age, but his father lived to the advanced age of ninety-one years, six months and three days. Mr. and Mrs. Haggard were consistent members of the Christian church and he was for the greater part of his life a stanch republican.

J. H. Haggard received his education in the public schools of Illinois and Iowa and after putting his textbooks aside farmed for his father until he became of age. He then started out in life on his own account, working on farms for wages of fifteen and twenty dollars per month. In 1877 he began farming for himself in Clay county, Nebraska, buying one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land, well improved. He had driven through from Iowa and gave his team and wagon and twenty-five hundred dollars as first payment on this land. He valued the team and wagon at four hundred dollars. During the drought years of '93 and '94 he raised practically nothing but after that began to be successful in his farming and now owns three hundred and twenty acres in Hamilton county, also land in Box Butte county and Kit Carson county, Colorado. He has always done general farming and for twelve years has been buying and feeding live stock. In 1907 he sold a number of pure bred Poland China hogs, realizing a substantial sum on the sale. He retired in 1910. He moved to Trumbull, where he built a nice home and later went to Lincoln, where he gave his children further educational advantages. In due time, however, he returned to Trumbull and is now residing there.

Mr. Haggard was twice married, Miss Mary J. Kennedy becoming his first wife. Her death occurred in 1898. She became the mother of seven children: Myrtle, now the wife of Wallace Martin of Lincoln; Joseph A., who is managing an elevator at Trumbull; H. M., who is engaged in farming near Trumbull; Martha, whose death occurred at the age of twenty-four; Everett R., engaged in the undertaking business at Omaha; Ruth, who is the wife of Doctor Alldritt of Lincoln, where he has built up an extensive dental practice; and Fannie B., who is a teacher in the grade schools of Lincoln. Mr. Haggard's second wife was Jennie Cunningham.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Haggard are prominent workers in the Christian church and he has held the office of elder for some years, while Mrs. Haggard is a deaconess. Fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America. Not only has Mr. Haggard been interested in agriculture, but in the financial circles of Trumbull he has also taken an active part. He has always been honorable in every business dealing and his reputation as a fine agriculturist and business man has spread throughout the county.

GENERAL DELEVAN BATES

No history of Hamilton county would be complete without extended reference to General Delevan Bates, who was so long an active, prominent and honored figure in connection with the upbuilding and progress of this part of the state. He was among those who homesteaded land here in an early day and later he was on various occasions in public office, while in business affairs he contributed to the material development and substantial welfare of the community. His record as a soldier

of the Civil war was a brilliant one and at all times his career reflected credit and honor upon the people of the state who honored him.

General Bates was born in Richmondville, Schoharie county, New York, March 17, 1840, and had attained the age of seventy-eight years when he passed away at Aurora on the 19th of December, 1918. His youthful days were passed in the Empire state and his educational advantages were those accorded by the public schools. He had attained his majority when on the 23d of August, 1862, he responded to the country's call for troops to aid in the preservation of the Union and became a second lieutenant. He was at that time residing at Worcester, Otsego county, New York, and he assisted in recruiting the One Hundred and Twenty-first New York Volunteers, being mustered in with that regiment on the 18th of August. The command was assigned to the Sixth army corps and had its baptism of fire in the battle of South Mountain, Maryland, on the 14th of September, less than four weeks after entering service. It soon won a well deserved reputation as a fighting regiment and in the course of the war lost two hundred and twenty-six of its men or one fourth of the entire number of the regiment. It was during the disastrous campaign of General Joe Hooker that Lieutenant Bates was taken prisoner and for sixteen days incarcerated in Libby prison, his capture being effected at Salem church, just after the fall of Fredericksburg, when he and about forty companions were surrounded by a superior force. They were sent to Richmond where they were placed with between three and four thousand other Union prisoners who had been captured at Chancellorsville. After Lieutenant Bates had been confined in Libby prison for a little more than two weeks his exchange was effected, his name being the last one called on a list of several thousand prisoners and an entire year elapsed before another exchange was made.

He rejoined his regiment just before the battle of Gettysburg, participating in a forced march in the race with Lee and reaching Little Round Top during the second day's fight, just before Longstreet charged that critical position. When the rebels caught sight of the Greek cross, which was the battle flag of the Sixth army corps, they halted and never renewed the assault. From his vantage point on Round Top Lieutenant Bates had an excellent view of Pickett's famous charge through what became known as the Bloody Angle. It was at Gettysburg that Mr. Bates' promotion to a first lieutenancy came to him. When in 1864 congress passed a resolution to accept colored volunteers, providing, however, that the regiments must be officered by white men who had seen service in the field, Lieutenant Bates was examined for an appointment of this character in February, 1864, and was made colonel of the Thirtieth Regiment, United States Colored Troops, on the 1st of March following. His military record from that time on has been given in a local paper as follows: "For weeks the Union forces had unsuccessfully assaulted the rebel works around Petersburg. Finally a tunnel was dug under the entrenchments and a plan was made to explode several tons of gunpowder. Through the gap thus made in the rebel line the works were stormed. The colored division of which Colonel Bates' regiment was a part was first chosen for this important duty but the plan was changed on account of a fear that if the assault failed the commanding general would be censured for 'sending the niggers into such a place.' The weakest division in the corps was chosen by lot and when the explosion gave signal for the assault it was repulsed. Bates' division was then ordered forward and as

ranking colonel he led the first regiment into 'the crater' made by the explosion. This hole was about the size of a city block and was the grave of two hundred and fifty men. Several hours' delay ensued in preparing for the second attack and the enemy had recovered to a considerable extent from the almost complete demoralization which immediately followed the explosion. The black soldiers drove them out, however, and kept them out. Just as they were settling down to a rest, a staff officer rode up to Colonel Bates with an order from General Burnside to charge a rebel battery on a nearby hill which was doing considerable damage to the Union forces. In forming for this charge Colonel Bates gave his men the usual instructions to pay no attention to the wounded who fell until after the battery was taken. If that order had been obeyed his life would surely have been lost that day. Just as the colored troops swept across a ravine they encountered a galling crossfire from five thousand enforcements under General Mahone and Colonel Bates fell with a fifty-eight calibre Enfield ball through his head. The bullet entered his right cheek and passed out just behind the left ear. The variation of a hair's breadth in its course would have meant instant death. But worse danger was coming. Bitter prejudice existed among the confederates against colored soldiers and especially against their white officers. The confederate congress had, in fact, declared that no mercy should be shown them. Wounded officers in such cases were invariably killed by bayonet. But for the heroism of Bates' black soldiers who carried him to safety he would undoubtedly have met that fate. October 11th he returned to duty and was given command of a brigade with the rank of general, also a medal of honor for the work he did at Petersburg. In January, 1865, his brigade was sent to North Carolina, where it joined General Sherman's army. General Bates' brigade remained at Beaufort, North Carolina, during the period of reconstruction and was mustered out in December, 1865."

With the close of the war General Bates returned to his old home in New York. He was married on the 1st of January, 1870, to Miss Lana A. Green of the Empire state and to them were born the following children: Lena Metzger, who died at the age of twenty-two years; LaVerne, a fruit farmer of Modesta, California; C. L., who is chief clerk in the auditing department of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad and resides at LaGrange, Illinois; Mrs. Daisy Tunison, living at Aurora, and the mother of two children, Lawrence and Margaret Tunison, who are in school. Mrs. Bates passed away in the year 1902, while the death of General Bates occurred December 19, 1918. He was therefore nearing the eightieth milestone on life's journey when called to his final rest. He had long been a consistent member of the Masonic fraternity, also belonged to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and he proudly wore the little bronze button that proclaimed him a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. For a number of years he served as commander of his post and was most highly esteemed by all of his old military comrades.

General Bates dated his residence in Hamilton county from 1872, at which time he took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres. When he had complied with the law concerning the cultivation of the claim and had received his patent to the land he removed to Aurora, where he continued to reside to the time of his death. For a number of years he was vice president of the First National Bank of Aurora and was recognized as a business man of superior ability, of keen

insight and sound judgment, successfully managing all of the interests with which he was associated. His fellow townsmen recognizing his worth and his devotion to the general good called him to several offices. He served as county superintendent of schools, was a member of the city council of Aurora for eight years and for two terms served as mayor of the city. It was while acting as county superintendent of schools that he took up his abode in Aurora, which was then but a tiny village and the subsequent growth, development and prosperity of the city are attributable in no small degree to the efforts of General Bates. When Aurora was made the county seat it was not even incorporated as a town and there was no legal way to raise money for any purpose. The citizens agreed to build a courthouse if the voters of Hamilton county would give them the opportunity and at the fifth election at which this question was before the people Aurora won the location. Immediately work on the courthouse was commenced but when the frame was constructed work stopped. Then Aurora learned that the people of the county were claiming that the election had been won by fraud and that an appeal would be made to the courts to declare the election illegal. A mass meeting was then called at which every voter of Aurora was present and the following resolution was passed, "Resolved that the courthouse must be built, and Aurora must build it." General Bates was appointed a member of the committee, together with John Helms and William H. Streeter, to carry this resolution into effect and the next morning he started out with an agreement to be signed by the voters, that each one would stand by the committee in all that they did. Only two men refused to sign the paper. Work was at once begun, General Bates guaranteeing the pay of the workmen and at an early date the courthouse was completed. General Bates was then instrumental in bringing about the incorporation of the town, which was accomplished at the next meeting of the county commissioners, on the 3d of July, 1877. He became a member of the first board of trustees and so continued to serve until Aurora was made a city of the second class. He later served as a member of the city council for eight years and was chief executive by reason of his election to the mayoralty for two terms. He did much to guide the policy and shape the destiny during the formative period and his work in behalf of Aurora is one which entitles him to the respect and the gratitude of all of her citizens. He likewise was instrumental in securing a site for a cemetery for the town. Arrangements had been made to purchase such a site from the Union Pacific Railroad Company but subscriptions were not forthcoming and the contract for the land was cancelled. When his son Loraine died in 1874 General Bates began investigating the condition of the cemetery, renewed the contract with the railroad company and made all payments until the town was incorporated, at which time the contract was turned over to the newly organized municipality. General Bates, however, served as superintendent of the cemetery for the first sixteen years at a nominal salary. He was one of the most enthusiastic champions of the Republican Valley Railroad from the time of the first committee meeting until the county bonds were voted. It was during his mayoralty term that the city water works were built and at all times he stood for progress and improvement in anything relating to the general welfare. For many years he did important work on the school board without financial reward and he advanced the money to pay for the ground whereon the present high school building stands, the district having no available funds at

that time. He it was who raised the funds for the band stand and memorial part in the public square and had charge of both from the beginning to completion. It is almost impossible to give account of his public service, so wide and resultant were his activities. Throughout days of peace he displayed the same loyalty to the public good that he manifested when he followed the nation's banner on the battle fields of the south and while his reward came in less tangible way than during the Civil war when he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general, he nevertheless enjoyed the highest regard, confidence and goodwill of his fellow townsmen, who during his life honored him for what he accomplished and since his death have revered and cherished his memory.

D. S. W. CARLSON

D. S. W. Carlson, whose well conducted garage at Aurora is bringing him gratifying success, is numbered among Nebraska's native sons, his birth having occurred in Saunders county, October 3, 1884. His parents, John and Marie (Nelson) Carlson, were both born near Stockholm, Sweden, the former in 1835 and the latter in 1850. They were married in that country and came to the United States in early life. The father crossed the Atlantic in 1845, becoming a resident of Detroit, Michigan. He was a blacksmith by trade and worked along that line at various places. Removing to Omaha, Nebraska, he followed blacksmithing in the shops of the Union Pacific Railroad and at an early day, in the settlement and development of Saunders county, he took up a homestead within its borders. There was not a house between Fremont and Lincoln at that time and he and Jack Carlson lived in a little sod house such as was common on the frontier. A prairie fire burned everything around their home one year. Mr. Carlson afterward improved his farm, built thereon a good residence and equipped the place with all modern accessories incident to the progress and development of a modern farm. In 1902 he disposed of his property there and removed to Hamilton county, where he purchased two hundred and seventy-seven acres of good land. His wife passed away in Saunders, while Mr. Carlson survived for some time and died in a hospital at Omaha, Nebraska. They were the parents of two children, one of whom was Signa, who became the wife of Nels Nelson, who was drowned November 7, 1907. The other member of the family was D. S. W. Carlson of this review. The parents were both members of the Lutheran church and in his political views Mr. Carlson was a republican. He started out in the business world empty handed, but as the years passed won a substantial measure of success.

D. S. W. Carlson was educated in the schools of Dodge county and of Fremont, Nebraska, attending the Fremont Normal. His youthful experiences were those of the farm bred boy, and when not busy with his textbooks he worked on the home farm, continuing to till the fields after reaching manhood, until 1905. He then turned his attention to carpentering and contracting and built a number of farm buildings and churches in Hamilton county. In February, 1920, he turned his attention to the automobile business, in which he has since been engaged. He now handles the Studebaker car, having the county agency therefor. He owns a large

garage and does all kinds of repair work on automobiles. He also has an oil station and every branch of his business is proving profitable, owing to his capable management, keen discernment and unabating energy. He devotes his entire time to the garage and the agency and is today one of the prominent representatives of the automobile trade in Hamilton county. He still owns the old home farm which is well improved and from that property he derives a substantial annual income.

It was in 1908 that Mr. Carlson was united in marriage to Miss Laura E. Hunt, who was born at Phillips, Nebraska, a daughter of Joseph Hunt, who settled in Hamilton county in 1871, owning land near Phillips where he makes his home at the present time, having retired from active business. To Mr. and Mrs. Carlson have been born seven children, four sons and three daughters: Marie, Deroyce, Hubert and Donald, all in school; Helen, Millard and Dorline.

Mr. Carlson is an exemplary representative of the Masonic fraternity, loyal at all times to the teachings and purposes of the craft. In politics he maintains an independent course, voting for men and measures rather than parties, nor is he at any time neglectful of the duties of citizenship, but gives active aid and support to all measures and movements for the public good. He and his family occupy a nice home at No. 1405 L street in Aurora and are now pleasantly situated in life. Mr. Carlson's record illustrates what can be accomplished through determined purpose and laudable ambition. He is one of the native sons of Nebraska whose record reflects credit upon the parent state.

JOHN GEORGE BAESCHLIN

A history of Hamilton county would not be complete without mention of John G. Baeschlin who passed away on the 6th of January, 1912, but who through many years of an active and useful life contributed to the development and upbuilding of Hamilton county. He was born in Toledo, Ohio, May 19, 1857, and pursued his education in the public schools of Wisconsin while spending his youthful days in that state. His parents were Jacob and Dorothea Webber Baeschlin, both of whom were natives of Switzerland. The father taught school in the land of the Alps, giving instruction in the French and German languages. After crossing the Atlantic he took up farming in Ohio and afterward removed to Wisconsin where both he and his wife spent their remaining days. He made several trips back to Switzerland, crossing the Atlantic on return visits to his native land on five different occasions.

John George Baeschlin started out in the business world empty handed but he steadily worked his way upward and as the years passed, by reason of his diligence and persistency of purpose, he gained a very substantial competence. In 1889 he married Miss Georgiana Hayworth, who was born at Thorntown, Indiana, a daughter of George W. and Caroline (Kirk) Hayworth. The father was engaged in the milling business at Thorntown and at Lebanon, Indiana, for many years and in 1882 removed with his family to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he turned his attention to farming. He and his wife spent their remaining days in this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Baeschlin was born a daughter, Fern. Mrs. Baeschlin is a



JOHN G. BAESCHLIN

consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Both Mr. and Mrs. Baeschlin were charter members of the Highlanders.

Mr. Baeschlin had many sterling traits of character which won him the high regard of all who knew him. When quite young he was taken by his parents to Wisconsin, was there reared to manhood and later the family removed to Missouri, but George, as he was familiarly known, drifted into Nebraska. He followed various pursuits at different times and at length settled down to the business of wholesale produce merchant. It was about 1888 that he became a resident of Aurora, and continuing in this business his trade at length grew to such proportions that it seemed wise to remove to Lincoln, which he did in 1906. At the time of his death he was said to be the largest independent wholesale produce merchant in the United States. During the last sixteen years of his life he shipped several carloads of poultry to the Pacific coast each week. In addition to his main office in Lincoln he maintained offices in Aurora, York, Seward, Fremont, Wahoo, Holdrege and Grand Island, Nebraska, and the entire business was under his direct supervision. He displayed notably sound judgment in all business affairs and quickly discriminated between the essential and the non-essential at all times. He was indeed a self-made man, dependent upon his own resources as soon as he was old enough to make a start in life. Year by year he developed his business interests until his position was one of leadership in connection with the poultry and egg trade of the country and thus as the years passed he won a notable and gratifying measure of prosperity, so that he was able to leave his family in very comfortable financial circumstances. Mrs. Baeschlin now occupies a beautful modern home at No. 1012 Ninth street, in Aurora, where she has many friends who esteem her highly and her position in social circles of the city is indeed enviable.

NELS H. ANDERSEN

Denmark has given its goodly quota of sterling citizens to Nebraska, and among the number is the well known pioneer of Hamilton county, Nels H. Andersen, within whose borders he has maintained his residence since 1879. Mr. Andersen has sold his farm property and is now living retired in the village of Kronborg, where he erected the modern and attractive house in which he and his wife maintain their home and take pleasure in extending hospitality to their wide circle of friends.

Mr. Andersen was born in Denmark in the year 1850, was there reared and educated, and in 1872, shortly after attaining his majority, came to the United States. He arrived in the city of Chicago at a time when it was just beginning to rehabilitate itself after the historic fire of 1871, and after there remaining about one year he went to Wisconsin, in which state he was employed for a time in a tannery and thereafter at farm work. There, in 1877, he was married to Miss Mary Hansen, and in the following year he purchased eighty acres of raw prairie land in Hamilton county, Nebraska, and in 1879 he and his wife came to establish their home on the pioneer farm in Otis township. They brought with them no household effects nor other equipment and as their funds were summed up in one hundred

dollars, they passed the first summer in the home of a neighbor and in the autumn Mr. Andersen erected on his land a little frame house, fourteen by eighteen feet in dimensions. Privations and other hardships were faced by the young pioneers, and they lost their crops by hail in the second year of their residence. However, he persisted in the cultivation of this eighty acres and later added a tract of equal area and eventually an abundant prosperity attended his vigorous and progressive activities as an agriculturist and stock raiser. He remained on his farm until 1916, since which year he has lived retired at Kronborg, and he has sold all of his farm property.

Mr. Andersen is a democrat in political allegiance, and he and his wife are earnest communicants of the Danish Lutheran church in their home village. Of their children the eldest, Christ, resides at Burwell, Garfield county; Herman died at the age of thirty-one years and Johanna died at the age of thirty-six years; Kenneth is identified with farm industry in Hamilton county; Mavis died at the age of twenty-one years; Carolina, a nurse by vocation, resides at Central City, Merrick county; Agnes is a resident of Brush, Colorado; Hans and Mata are deceased; and Otto, who was in the nation's military service in connection with the World war, now owns and has the active management of the old home farm in Otis township.

C. H. REED

C. H. Reed, whose death occurred in 1897, was the seventh settler of Bluff precinct, having removed to Hamilton county in 1873. He secured a homestead and after passing through years of hardships and misfortunes became a successful and progressive agriculturist and one widely known throughout the community.

C. H. Reed was born in Sweden in 1833 and when thirty-five years of age came to the United States, first settling in Illinois. There he worked out on farms by the month, but hearing of greater opportunities offered in the west he came alone to Nebraska and located in Hamilton county in 1873, thereby becoming the seventh pioneer settler in Bluffs township. The trip to the west was made by train as far as Lone Tree, now Central City, and he arrived there on the 14th of February, that year. Mr. Reed was without finances but secured a homestead of eighty acres and began to cultivate his land. He built a sod house on the land that summer and a hay shed for live stock, although he had no live stock then nor for a period of two years afterward. He then purchased a yoke of oxen and with them started to break his ground. The grasshoppers took his first crop, also his second and third and as a result he walked to Lincoln and there secured a job. He experienced the severe Easter blizzard of 1873 and was snowed in for three days. In the early days of his residence in the county Indians were numerous but they were quite friendly, often stopping at the farm house for food and warmth during their fall and spring hunting trips. Mr. Reed had to take his grain to a mill some miles distant and when he went on this journey the entire neighborhood accompanied him. Although there were many obstacles in Mr. Reed's path to success, he overcame all of them by his grim determination and remarkable energy. At the time of his death in 1897 Mr. Reed was in possession of two hundred acres of fine farm land whereon

stood a modern home. The widow of Mr. Reed is still making her home on this land in section 26, Bluff precinct.

Before coming to the United States Mr. Reed was united in marriage to Miss Johanna Peterson, and their son, C. H., who was born in Sweden, is managing the old homestead. Two other children were born to this union: George, who is engaged in farming in Alberta, Canada; and Albert, who is also farming on the home place. The two brothers on the home place rent the greater part of the land and engage in general farming on the remainder.

The death of Mr. Reed came as a severe blow to the community for he was one of their few remaining pioneers. He was justly entitled to that proud American title of self-made man for his success was the result of his own efforts, intelligently directed.

HANS P. MADSEN

The year 1873 recorded the arrival of the late Hans P. Madsen and his faithful wife in Hamilton county, Nebraska, and theirs was a life of struggle and many hardships in the earlier period of their residence on one of the pioneer farms of the county. They suffered loss of crops through grasshoppers, hailstorms and droughts, but they did not lose confidence nor courage and the passing years finally rewarded them with generous prosperity. Mr. Madsen was one of the substantial farmers and highly esteemed pioneer citizens of Otis township at the time of his death, when seventy years of age, and his widow still maintains her residence on the old home farm, in section 28, Otis township, the place being dear to her through gracious memories and associations of years that have passed.

Mr. Madsen was born in Denmark, or rather in the former Danish province of Slesvig, which had become a German possession at the time of his birth, in 1844, he having been of stanch Danish ancestry. He was reared and educated in his native province and was twenty-two years of age when he immigrated to America, in 1866, and established his residence in Illinois, where he continued to be employed at farm work until 1869, in which year he was joined by his wife on the 8th of April. She was born and reared in Denmark and her maiden name was Alice M. Mortensen. From 1869 to 1873 Mr. Madsen was engaged in farming in the state of Illinois. He then came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, and took up a preemption claim of eighty acres, in the present Otis township. Later he took also a homestead claim, adjoining his preemption and for several years he and his wife continued to occupy the little sod house which he constructed on his land. He purchased a team of horses and broke a few acres of his land, which he planted with wheat. He was isolated on the prairie farm during the historic Easter blizzard which swept this section in April, 1873, and which held the country snowbound for three days. He and his wife encountered their full share of the privations and other hardships that marked the pioneer days, but eventually prosperity smiled upon them and at the time of his death he was the owner of a well improved and very productive farm of one hundred acres. He was a man of unassailable character, industrious and ambitious, loyal to all civic and communal obligations, kindly and considerate in his

association with his fellowmen and honored for his uprightness and his worthy achievement.

Mr. and Mrs. Madsen became the parents of four children: Hannah M.; Hans T.; and Nels P. and Nelcena, both of whom died young. Mr. Madsen's political convictions placed him in the ranks of the republican party and he was an earnest communicant of the Danish Lutheran church, as is also his widow, who is one of the revered pioneer women of Otis township.

JOHN A. ANDERSON

It is only a few decades ago that Hamilton county and all this section of Nebraska was a wild and unimproved district, but into the region came men of enterprise and industry, men who were not afraid of the hard work necessary to the reclamation of the wild land and its conversion into rich and productive farms. To this class belonged John A. Anderson, who for many years was closely associated with farming interests but who is now living retired, enjoying in well earned rest the fruits of his former toils. He was born in Sweden, April 7, 1862, and is a son of Andrew and Johanna (Jones) Anderson who were also natives of Sweden where they spent their entire lives, passing away during the boyhood days of the subject of this review. The father was for some time a soldier in the Swedish army and both he and his wife were members of the State church of that country. Their family numbered nine children, of whom only two are living, the surviving daughter being Minnie who is yet a resident of Sweden.

The only representative of the family in the United States is John A. Anderson who obtained a public school education and who, on coming to the new world, settled in Edgar, Clay county, Nebraska, in 1888. He was then a young man of twenty-six years and he believed that he would have better business advantages on this side of the Atlantic and win success more rapidly. He worked as a farm hand for one summer and then rented a farm, thus gaining his start in life. It was in 1894 that he first purchased land but this proved to be a dry season and he gathered practically no crop. In 1896 hail destroyed his crop and thus he suffered various hardships and trials during the early days. He purchased his farm on time, first securing eighty acres and later investing in one hundred and twenty acres of improved land, his original tract being unimproved. He turned the first furrows theron and in course of time transformed the land into productive fields from which he annually gathered a golden harvest. His growing success was indicated by his later purchase and in the course of years he ranked with the substantial and prosperous farmers of the community.

On the 1st of September, 1892, Mr. Anderson was married to L. Freda Larson, who was born in Sweden, October 8, 1868, a daughter of Lars and Marie Peterson who were also natives of Sweden where the father died and where the mother is still living at the age of eighty-eight years. Mrs. Anderson came to the United States in 1889 and settled first in Edgar, Nebraska. By her marriage she has become the mother of four children: Ruth Amelia, who is at home; Oscar Gordon, who was among the first to join the army after America declared war on Germany

and was with the Coast Artillery in California and Virginia, being honorably discharged in December, 1918, with the rank of sergeant; Ada Dorotha, who married Morris W. Snyder of Lincoln, Nebraska, a railroad man on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, who was also with the army and served in France. Following his enlistment he was in camp at Dennison, New Mexico, until sent across; and Earl Amandus, who is living with his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson belong to the Swedish Mission church and are interested in all that pertains to the moral progress and welfare of the city and county. In politics Mr. Anderson maintains an independent course, voting for men and measures rather than parties. In 1916 he sold his farm and removed to Aurora, retiring from active business and erecting here a nice residence at No. 1005 P street. He has since enjoyed a well earned rest and he certainly deserves the prosperity which has come to him as it is the direct outgrowth of unabating industry and energy that never flags.

TOM FAGAN

Among the early pioneers of Hamilton county was Tom Fagan, who came to that county in 1873 and secured a homestead. He has since resided in Hamilton county and has become one of the successful, progressive and leading agriculturists of the community. He was born in Ireland in 1847 and at the age of twenty-three years came to the United States. He first located in New York state and there remained for three years, being employed by the day and saving a little money. In 1873, realizing that bigger opportunities were being offered in the west, he came to Nebraska and located in Hamilton county, where he homesteaded eighty acres. The trip as far as Lincoln he made by way of train but on reaching that town purchased a team and drove overland to his homestead. He had been in his new home but a few days when the Easter blizzard struck the country and he was snowed in for several days. His first dwelling was of sod and he used oxen to break his land. Wild geese and antelopes were plentiful in the vicinity of his home and many Indians passed through his land on their spring and fall hunting trips. Mr. Fagan experienced all of the pioneer hardships but allowed no obstacle, however great, to remain long in his path. Bradshaw was the nearest place to trade at that time and the storekeeper brought out his supplies from Lincoln with mule teams. The country was indeed but sparsely settled and Aurora, one of the nearest settlements, had then but two sod houses. Prairie fires, several of which Mr. Fagan passed through, were most feared by the pioneers and the grasshopper storms brought about total destruction of crops. The first corn crop of Mr. Fagan was destroyed in that manner. Although he had but twenty-five dollars when he first came to Hamilton county, Mr. Fagan has through his own efforts become financially independent, but still maintains an active interest in farm life. As his original eighty acres of land was brought to a high cultivation, he purchased more land and he now owns five hundred and twenty acres in section 9, Valley township, on which stand four sets of buildings.

In 1878 Mr. Fagan was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Butler, a native of

Ohio, their marriage being celebrated in Crete, Nebraska. To them seven children have been born: James, who passed away at the age of thirty-five years; Anna; Alice; Edward; Florence; George; and Emma.

Although Mr. Fagan is now seventy-three years of age he is well preserved and active in the agricultural and civic affairs of the community. He is widely known as a successful and progressive farmer and is one of the few pioneer residents of the county now living.

FESTUS VAN DEUSEN

In the early '70s, within a few years after the admission of Nebraska to statehood, the new commonwealth gained a sterling pioneer in the person of the late Festus Van Deusen, who came with his family to Hamilton county, sustained by high courage and a determination to gain from the prairie soil a tribute that eventually should lead to his independence and substantial prosperity. He and his wife met with fortitude the varied tribulations and hardships that fell to the lot of the early settlers throughout this section, proved themselves masters in conforming to the primitive conditions, and thus were not baffled by their losses through droughts, grasshopper scourges, etc., but made the best of adverse as well as favorable conditions, and as the years passed they found their efforts crowned with success. Mr. Van Deusen was one of the venerable and honored pioneer citizens of Hamilton county at the time of his death, in 1919, he having passed away at the age of eighty-five years. He was born and reared in the state of New York, where the common schools enlisted a due share of his youthful attention and he was a youth when he made his way to Wisconsin. The voyage was made by way of the Great Lakes, and in the shipwrecking of the vessel on which he and his parents had taken passage, the family lost the greater part of their material possessions. Mr. Van Deusen became a vigorous exponent of farm enterprise in the Badger state, where his marriage occurred and from there he came to Nebraska in the early '70s, by means of a team and covered wagon, bringing with him a cow, the leisurely movements of which did not tend to hasten the progress of the long overland journey. Upon arriving in Hamilton county, Mr. Van Deusen took up a homestead of eighty acres, in Union precinct, and here the first habitation of the family was a dugout of the type common to that period. The Van Deusen family endured its full share of vicissitudes and privations, but the homestead gradually began to assume the appearance of a well ordered farm, and with the general development of the country the adverse conditions were overcome and the faith of the pioneers justified. Eventually Mr. Van Deusen sold his original homestead, on which he had made good improvements, including the planting of an orchard and other trees, and purchased and brought to a high standard the farm of eighty acres which still continues in the possession of his widow. He was a stanch republican and was a man of broad views and intense civic loyalty, the while his sterling character gained and retained to him unqualified popular confidence and respect.

In Wisconsin occurred the marriage of Mr. Van Deusen to Miss Ellen Gordon, who was born in Virginia and who accompanied her parents to Wisconsin in the



MR. AND MRS. FESTUS VAN DEUSEN

pioneer period of the history of that state. She is now in advanced years and with friends on every side maintains her home in the village of Stockham, where she finds the pleasing conditions and associations that fully compensate for the pioneer trials and perplexities that fell to her lot. Of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Van Deusen the eldest, Amos, is a resident of Illinois; George is a prosperous farmer near Mullen, Hooker county, Nebraska; Thomas resides at Stockham, Hamilton county; Oscar lives at Giltner, this county; Frank lives at Stockham; Lucinda is the wife of John Beacom, a substantial farmer of Hamilton county; Anna is the wife of J. Ready of Stockham; and Ida is the wife of Grant Evans of Aurora.

FRED B. HOWARD

The value of the local newspapers in the upbuilding of the best interests of any community is universally conceded. The rule is that good papers are found in good towns, inferior journals in towns of stunted growth and uncertain future. It is not so much a matter of size and of excellence as adaptability to the needs of the locality in which it is established. The Clay County Sun, which Fred B. Howard of Clay Center is the owner and editor, has an excellent circulation and is a leader in the work of progress and improvement in the county. For the past ten years Mr. Howard has been active in his present connection and his friends are manifold. Starting from the printing trade he has progressed in orderly manner through every phase of the newspaper business until he now heads an organization of his own. In Harvard he received his first newspaper training, entering the printing office of a paper there, and after that time he worked on different metropolitan papers. As a citizen he is no unthinking "booster," but is at all times a supporter of Clay Center's best interests and the steady growth of that place is due to such men

EDWIN HUENEFELD

Edwin Huenefeld, who is successfully engaged in stock raising in Aurora township, has spent his entire life in Hamilton county, his birth occurring there November 25, 1886. He is a son of Carl F. and Elizabeth (Bald) Huenefeld, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. After attending the common schools he entered a Nebraska agricultural college and thus became well qualified for the occupation to which he now gives his attention. Since 1911 he has had charge of his father's farm and is today specializing in the feeding of hogs, sheep and cattle, winning for himself a high place among the stockmen of Hamilton county.

Mr. Huenefeld was married in July, 1917, to Miss Rissie Eggert, who today is a prominent woman in the community, taking an active part in clubs and social affairs.

In addition to his stock raising interests Mr. Huenefeld is identified with the

cooperative elevators at Aurora and Giltner, and also with the cooperative stores of those towns. He has been president of the Hamilton County Farm Bureau since its organization in 1918 and fraternally is identified with the Masons, having taken the master's degree. He is a consistent member of the United Brethren church and has served as president of the State Christian Endeavor Union of that church for two years. He is today recognized as one of the representative citizens and stockmen of his community.

JOHN NICKALSON

Since 1879 John Nickalson has been a resident of Hamilton county and since 1908 of Hordville, where he is now enjoying a life of retirement. A native of Sweden, he was born in that country in 1848 and when twenty years of age came to the United States. He obtained work in Pennsylvania, where he remained for a short time and then removed to California, subsequently locating in Hamilton county, Nebraska, in 1879. He purchased one hundred and twenty acres of railroad land, part of it under cultivation and thereon built a small frame house. When he landed in the United States John Nickalson was without funds, but he was determined to succeed, and succeed he did. His ability as a farmer soon asserted itself and today he is in possession of three hundred acres of well improved farm land. After the death of his wife Mr. Nickalson removed to Hordville and retired from active farm life in 1908. He takes an active interest in the development and improvement of the community in which he resides and is readily acknowledged a representative citizen.

In 1867 occurred the marriage of Mr. Nickalson and Miss Nellie Bengtson, and to them ten children were born, five living in Hamilton county and one in Merrick county. In 1913 the death of Mrs. Nickalson occurred and was an occasion of deep grief to her many friends throughout the community. She was a consistent member of the Lutheran church for years.

Mr. Nickalson is now enjoying the reward that comes from many years of diligence and industry. His sons are managing the farm, although as a true agriculturist he maintains a great interest in it. Mr. Nickalson has proved himself to be the highest type of American citizen and as such has won the respect and goodwill of his fellowmen.

GRIFFITH J. THOMAS

Griffith J. Thomas is now living retired in Harvard after long and active connection with newspaper interests here and with public affairs. He has ever been recognized as a substantial citizen whose aid is on the side of progress and improvement at all times. Mr. Thomas was born near Harlech, Wales, on the 20th of January, 1847, so that he has now passed the seventy-fourth milestone on life's journey. His parents were John G. and Mary (Williams) Thomas, who emigrated

to America in 1851, settling at Remsen, New York, not far from Utica, remaining here until they went to Frankfort Hill, in Herkimer county, where Mrs. Thomas passed away in April, 1854. In September of the following year the father and son removed to Wisconsin, taking up their abode at Berlin in Green Lake county, where Griffith J. Thomas was reared to manhood. There his father passed away in 1900, at the venerable age of eighty-eight years.

G. J. Thomas attended school in Green Lake county until 1859 and then, putting aside his textbooks, concentrated his efforts and attention upon farm work, save for about three months in the winter season when he again had the opportunity of attending school. He continued to follow farming until August 20, 1862, when at the age of fifteen years he enlisted as a drummer in Company C, Thirty-second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for a month, but failed to pass muster because of his youth and size. Being barred from active military duty he then entered the office of the Berlin (Wis.) Courant to learn the printing trade, at which he worked until July 27, 1863. He then went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and enlisted as a drummer in Company B, First Wisconsin Heavy Artillery, with which he served until the close of the war, thus realizing his hope of aiding the country in the preservation of the Union. He was mustered out at Madison, Wisconsin, September 4, 1865, and in April of the following year entered the revenue marine service as quartermaster on board the revenue cutter John A. Dix, stationed at Detroit, Michigan, and cruising on Lake Superior. Mr. Thomas was assigned to duty at Detroit as ship keeper during the winter and on the 1st of April following was discharged at his own request that he might return home and complete his trade of printing. He remained with the Berlin Courant as devil, foreman and for two years as managing editor and then in 1876 resigned his position, having been elected to the office of city clerk. On the 1st of May, 1877, Mr. Thomas was appointed postmaster of Berlin, Wisconsin, by President Hayes and entered upon the duties of that position, in which he continued as the incumbent until August, 1886, having in the meantime been reappointed to the office. He was then released at his own request on account of ill health.

Mr. Thomas had become identified with the Grand Army of the Republic immediately after his retirement from the revenue service and has been an active member of the organization since. He served as adjutant of his post in Berlin, Wisconsin, for six years and held numerous department offices, having also the honor of serving the department of Wisconsin as commander from 1879 until 1881 inclusive. He was likewise an early member of the Knights of Pythias, becoming a representative of that order in 1871. He served as keeper of the records and seal in his local lodge for seven years and was recorder of the Temple of Honor. He is likewise a member of the Masonic lodge and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

On the 1st of November, 1874, Mr. Thomas was married to Miss Anna E. Griffith, a native of Utica, New York, and to them have been born two sons: George Henry, a prominent banker of Harvard; and Harrie Griffith, who is assistant cashier of the Union State Bank of Harvard.

It was in October, 1886, that Mr. Thomas came to Harvard on account of his health. He had previously purchased a farm in this section of the state and for two years resided thereon, life in the open proving greatly beneficial to him, but in the fall of 1888 he removed his family to Harvard in order to give his sons the advan-

tage of the city schools. In 1889 he purchased the Harvard Courier, which he edited and published until February, 1898, when he entered upon his duties as postmaster and his younger son took over the paper. Mr. Thomas became actively interested in the development of the city and has figured prominently in connection with public affairs. He was chosen city clerk in 1893 to fill a vacancy and the same year was elected a member of the board of education, serving as its secretary until 1896. The cause of education found in him a stalwart friend and his aid and cooperation can at all times be counted upon as factors in general progress and improvement. He has been continuously in some position of public trust and at all times has been active in the Grand Army of the Republic and the Knights of Pythias. He is still secretary of the Masonic lodge, after filling that position for twenty-seven years. On the 16th of February, 1898, he received from President McKinley appointment to the position of postmaster of Harvard and served until August 15, 1915. He still assists in the post office to some extent, although he is now practically living a retired life. He is recognized as one of the prominent and influential residents of Harvard, highly respected by all who know him. He and his wife attend the Congregational church, are members of the order of the Eastern Star, and take helpful interest in many plans for the extension of the church work. Mr. Thomas was a member of the Soldiers Relief Committee for a number of years and he served on the school redistricting committee. In a word, when any helpful public project is to be carried forward the cooperation and aid of Mr. Thomas are sought and are always freely given, making his life one of great worth and value to the community in which he lives.

REV. L. A. DUNPHY

Since 1904 Rev. Father L. A. Dunphy has been in charge of the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Sutton. His strong personality, fine character and ability have won him many friends throughout the community and the membership of his church so increased that it was necessary to build a larger and more modern church, this structure being completed in 1907. Father Dunphy was born in County Queens, Ireland, in 1857, a son of Thomas and Margaret (Moore) Dunphy, both natives of that country, in which they resided until death. The father was a successful farmer and a well known member of the community in which he made his home. Thirteen children were born to that union, six of whom are living. Father Dunphy has one brother and one sister residing in New York state but the remainder of the family are still in Ireland. The paternal grandfather of our subject was William Dunphy and the maternal grandfather Laurence Moore, both respected and progressive citizens of their various communities.

Father Dunphy received his education in the local schools of his native county and in due time entered St. Patrick's Monastery at Mountrath. In 1883 he was ordained and had charge of a church in Canada from 1883 until 1887. In the latter part of that year he came to Nebraska, and for one and one-half years was assistant to Bishop Bonacum in Lincoln. The next four years he was in charge of a church at Colon and was in Aurora from 1893 until 1897. From 1897 to 1904 he

served in Doniphan and in the latter part of 1904 went to Sutton. He has since been in charge of the Church of the Immaculate Conception there and administers to the moral welfare of sixty-five families. The old church soon proved to be too small to take care of Father Dunphy's congregation and in 1907 a handsome new building was erected.

The popularity of Father Dunphy extends over the greater part of the community and he is considered one of its most representative and valuable citizens. He is well known in fraternal circles as a member of the Knights of Columbus. He has devoted his entire life to his church and to the moral strengthening and development of his fellowmen.

GEORGE A. HERZOG

George A. Herzog, postmaster of Harvard, was born in Bavaria, Germany, August 12, 1850, and his youthful days were spent on the home farm to the age of sixteen years, when he came to America, attracted by the opportunities of the new world. From 1867 until 1874 he resided near Buffalo, New York, where he was employed at farm labor, and in the fall of 1874 he came to Clay county, Nebraska, casting in his lot with the early settlers. For forty-seven years he has remained a resident of this section of the state and has witnessed the marvelous growth, settlement and development of the region. He first took up an eighty-acre homestead in Leicester township and with characteristic energy began tilling the soil and developing the fields, remaining on that place until 1883, when he removed to Harvard. Here he was first employed by an implement dealer for a year and later he turned his attention to the insurance business, which he followed for a number of years, gaining a good clientage in that connection and having one of the successful insurance agencies of this part of the state. He was called to the position of postmaster under appointment from President Cleveland and continued to serve during a part of the McKinley administration, filling the office for five years. He was again made postmaster in August, 1915, to succeed Griffith J. Thomas and is the present incumbent in the position. He is most systematic and careful in all the work of the office and has made an excellent official. As the years have passed he has also prospered in his business affairs. He sold the old homestead in 1905 and bought land in North and South Dakota, and still owns four hundred acres there, besides which he owns some good business properties in Harvard, including the hotel. He began life empty-handed and whatever he has achieved and enjoyed is attributable to his own efforts. He was one of a family of twelve children born to George A. and Margaret (Rife) Herzog, who spent their entire lives in Germany, but nine of their children came to America and here found excellent opportunities, which they have improved. Making good use of his time and of the chances which have come to him, George A. Herzog has steadily advanced toward the goal of success and is now one of the substantial residents of Clay county.

On the 7th of October, 1877, Mr. Herzog was married to Miss Emma Parks, a native of Benton Harbor, Michigan, and a daughter of David B. and Alsona (Aldrich) Parks. They have become the parents of five children: Frank H.,

Arthur M., William H., Anna V. and Raymond H. The first two of this number have been called to the home beyond and the other three are still living. Mrs. Herzog is a member of the Congregational church and Mr. Herzog is a member of the First Reformed church and fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. He has always given his political support to the democratic party and has filled the office of city alderman for eight years and mayor for six years, in addition to his service as postmaster. At all times he is most loyal to the trust reposed in him and his worth as a man and citizen is widely acknowledged in the community in which he has now lived for almost a half century.

HENRY BRANDT

A resident for more than thirty years of Hamilton county, Nebraska, the late Henry Brandt gained through his own efforts a generous measure of temporal prosperity and in his activities as an agriculturist and stock raiser he contributed definitely to the industrial development of the county, even as in his loyal and liberal civic attitude he did well his part in furthering social advancement. He won success by worthy means and so ordered his course in all of the relations of life as to merit and receive the unqualified commendation and respect of his fellowmen. He was born and reared in Germany and was a self-reliant and ambitious youth of seventeen years when he came to the United States and found employment at farm work, near Postville, Iowa. He likewise passed a year in Minnesota, and in that state on the 29th of February, 1888, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Katie Minges, who was born and reared in Minnesota, a daughter of Joseph and Frederica (Resch) Minges, of whose three sons and three daughters she was the fifth in order of birth. In 1888 Mr. Brandt and his bride came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, and settled on a tract of eighty acres, near Giltner. On this farm he continued his progressive activities for fifteen years and then sold the property and purchased the fine farm on which his widow still resides, the same comprising two hundred and forty acres and the home being in section 28, Monroe township. A man of energy and mature judgment, Mr. Brandt made his labors count in increasing success in his farm enterprise and he gained high reputation as a thoroughgoing and successful farmer who achieved wealth through his own ability and efforts. Appreciative of the comforts which add to the happiness in the home and ever solicitous for the welfare of his family, he provided on his farm one of the modern and attractive rural houses of the county and his business sagacity led him to erect also farm buildings of the best type. He was aligned in the ranks of the democratic party, was affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and was a communicant of the Lutheran church, while his widow is a member of the Methodist church. Mrs. Brandt remains on the home farm, sustained and comforted by the devotion of her children and by gracious association with an unusually wide circle of loyal friends in the county which has long been her home and in which she has realized many of the finer ideals of thought and action and is stanch in her loyalty to the county and the state.

The death of Mr. Brandt occurred on the 16th of May, 1918, and besides his



MR. AND MRS. HENRY BRANDT

widow he is survived by four children: Frederick is a progressive young farmer near the old home farm; Edward and Walter have the active management of the old home place, where they remain with their widowed mother; and Gladys is the wife of Cecil Jacobs and they reside on a farm in Hamilton county.

J. J. McCONAUGHEY

Aurora's population contains a goodly percentage of retired farmers—men who in previous years have been very active in directing the agricultural development of this district and whose labors have brought to them a gratifying and substantial measure of success. With this class J. J. McConaughey is numbered and Aurora finds him a valued representative citizen. Iowa claims him as a native son, for his birth occurred in Marion county, that state, April 13, 1854, his parents being James and Mary Ann (Wires) McConaughey, the former a native of Guernsey county, Ohio, while the latter was born in Germany. The father was reared and educated in the Buckeye state and was a man of studious nature who was constantly promoting his knowledge and efficiency. In 1853 he removed to Iowa where he devoted his attention to farming. He was very capable, accomplishing everything which he undertook and displaying versatility and enterprise in all of his work. For several years he served as constable and was thoroughly loyal in the discharge of his duties. His political support was given to the republican party. At the time of the Civil war he attempted to join the army but was rejected on account of being crippled in his feet. His son, Andrew McConaughey, served as sheriff of Hamilton county for several years and was very prominent in the public life of this section. He took up his abode in Hamilton county in 1871 and here homesteaded, securing land which he converted into a rich and productive farm. He served for several years in the Civil war in defense of the Union and was at all times a loyal and progressive citizen. His death occurred in 1918.

In the family of Mr. and Mrs. James McConaughey there were eight children, of whom two died in infancy and two are living, the surviving brother being William, who resides in Oklahoma, where he follows farming.

The youngest of the family was J. J. McConaughey of this review. He obtained his education at Knoxville, Iowa, and started out in the business world in connection with farming. The year 1890 witnessed his arrival in Hamilton county, although he had visited the county in 1874 but soon afterward returned to Iowa. While in that state he worked by the month for a time and afterward purchased a farm which he owned and cultivated until he sought the opportunities offered in Nebraska. Here in 1889 he purchased two hundred acres of land upon which he took up his abode in 1890, continuing to own the property until 1918 when he sold it. He lived on the farm for ten years and then removed to Aurora where for twenty years he has resided. He carried the mail on the rural route for sixteen years, continuing to serve in that connection until 1916 when owing to impaired health he resigned his position. He has a pleasant home at 912 L street and is living retired.

It was in 1877 that Mr. McConaughey was married to Miss Frances Myers, who was born in Ohio, a daughter of Enos W. and Rebecca Jane (Fernowl) Myers,

the former a native of Pennsylvania while the latter was born in Ohio. They removed to Iowa at an early day and the year 1887 witnessed their arrival in Nebraska. Mr. Myers purchased a large farm and afterward removed to Table Rock, Nebraska, where his remaining days were passed, while the mother died at the home of a daughter in Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. McConaughey have become parents of eight children: Dorotha May, who is the wife of A. R. Ocker, a railroad man residing at Beatrice, Nebraska; Clyde L., who is in the Fidelity National Bank of Aurora; Minnie Ann, the wife of Tunis T. Lapp, of Lincoln, Nebraska, who is with a paper and bag company; Lula B., the wife of Carl Witham, an engineer of Alliance, Nebraska; Mary Jane, the wife of Dr. L. D. Smith, a chiropractor of Lincoln; Francis Earl, a farmer living in Hamilton county; Enos J., who is employed in the Fidelity and Real Estate Bank at Aurora; and Cecil A., who occupies a position in the First National Bank at Lincoln, Nebraska.

In his political views Mr. McConaughey is a republican but has never been ambitious to hold office, preferring to concentrate his efforts and attention upon business affairs. The only official position he has filled was that of rural mail carrier. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons and with the Modern Woodmen of America and to the teachings of both organizations is loyal. He and his wife are consistent members of the Christian church and they have a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of their acquaintance. Mr. McConaughey well deserves to be classed with the self-made men of Hamilton county. When he went to Pottawattamie county, Iowa, in 1877 he rented land and was without funds. Instead of paying part of his crop for rent he decided to buy an eighty-acre tract of land on time. An agent showed him several pieces of land and he finally decided upon eighty acres for which he paid ten dollars per acre, making the first payment in March following his agreement to purchase the property in the previous fall. Each year he continued to pay one hundred dollars until the indebtedness was discharged and thus he gained his start in life. From that point forward he has steadily advanced and obstacles and difficulties in his path have seemed to call forth greater courage and firmer purpose. Year by year he progressed and for a considerable period was numbered among the successful farmers of Hamilton county. Today he is living retired, enjoying the fruits of his former toil and he has the satisfaction of knowing that every dollar he possesses has been industriously and honorably earned.

JOHN G. MOBERG

The land of Hamilton county has afforded to Mr. Moberg the excellent medium through which he has made his way to a stage of definite independence and prosperity. Depending entirely upon his own resources and placing true values upon men and affairs, he has guided his course firmly and wisely and has not been denied the goodly reward of merited success. He was born in Sweden in the year 1859, was there reared and educated and was a young man of twenty-five years when he came to the United States and made Nebraska his destination. His brother, Andrew P., had established his home on a pioneer farm in Hamilton county and John G. assisted in the work of this farm about one year and eventually

located his home farm not far distant. He farmed independently on rented land about three years and then purchased, at the rate of eighteen dollars an acre, his present farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, in section 9, Monroe township. Here his labors and good management have been crowned with substantial success and he is now the owner of a well improved farm that yields goodly returns year after year. He is a reliable and upright citizen who commands unqualified popular esteem, has done his part in the furtherance of social and industrial development and progress in Hamilton county, is a stanch republican in politics and both he and his wife are active communicants of the Swedish Lutheran church.

In the city of Omaha was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Moberg to Miss Anna Burgman, who came from Sweden to the United States when she was twenty-five years of age. They have two children, Amelia and Esther, both of whom are residing in the city of Omaha, where the elder daughter is attending a school for trained nurses.

B. A. MUNSON

Business enterprise in Aurora finds a worthy representative in B. A. Munson, a furniture dealer and undertaker whose carefully directed interests have placed him among the prosperous merchants of the city. His life record began on the 10th of December, 1858, in Carroll county, Illinois. His father, B. F. Munson, was a native of Ohio and in young manhood removed to Illinois, where he was living at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war. Joining the army he served with the boys in blue of the Ninety-second Illinois Infantry for a period of three years and aided valiantly in defense of the Union. He afterward returned to Illinois and there followed the occupation of farming. It was in that state that he married Catherine Loughran, who was born in Illinois and in 1871 they removed with their family to Nebraska, settling in Adams county among the pioneers who were engaged in reclaiming a wild and undeveloped region for the purposes of civilization. Mr. Munson secured a claim and at once began the arduous task of transforming the wild land into productive fields. He continued to own and cultivate the homestead to the time of his demise and his wife also passed away upon this farm. They were earnest Christian people, loyal to the teachings of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which they held membership. Mr. Munson was a republican in his political views, serving as justice of the peace and at all times supporting those activities and interests which he believed would be of benefit to the community. To him and his wife were born thirteen sons and three daughters and of this family fifteen reached adult age, while ten are yet living.

B. A. Munson, who was the sixth in order of birth, was a youth of twelve years when the family home was established in Nebraska, so that he, too, became familiar with the experiences of frontier life. He was educated in the country schools and later pursued a business course in Burlington, Iowa. In his youthful days he learned the blacksmith's trade which he followed for three years and afterward turned his attention to the furniture business at Blue Hill, Nebraska, where he remained an active factor in mercantile circles for a period of seven years. It was in 1891 that he became a resident of Aurora and opened a furniture store

and undertaking establishment, being a graduate undertaker and embalmer. He carries an attractive line of furniture and household goods and his success is the direct outcome of the careful management of his affairs, his sound judgment in selecting stock and his straightforward dealings with his customers.

On the 29th of December, 1886, Mr. Munson was married to Miss Margaret McClelland, who was born in Canada, a daughter of John and Margaret (Mathison) McClelland, both of whom were natives of Scotland and resided at Blue Hill, Nebraska, for a number of years, the father being there engaged in the hotel business. To Mr. and Mrs. Munson have been born five children: Goldie, who is the wife of Claude Patrick, living on a ranch near Craig, Colorado; Elroy, who has charge of the furniture department of the Benway Furniture Company at Lincoln, Nebraska; Russell, who is in the store with his father; Jeannie, the wife of William Finney, of Aurora, who is senior land appraiser for the Burlington Railroad Company; and Francis, who is ticket clerk for the Burlington and resides at home.

In his fraternal relations Mr. Munson is a Mason and an Odd Fellow and has passed through all of the chairs in the Odd Fellows lodge several times. He and his wife belong to the Presbyterian church and are interested in all those forces which make for the moral development of the community. Politically he is a republican and has served as coroner of Hamilton county but is not an aspirant for office and prefers to devote his entire attention to his mercantile business, which is a large and growing one and which makes full demand upon his time and energies.

E. J. EGGERT

There is no phase of pioneer life, with its hardships, privations, its trials and its opportunities, with which E. J. Eggert, a retired farmer of Aurora, is not familiar. He came here in the days of early development and as the years passed performed all the arduous work of cultivating and improving a new farm. At length success rewarded his efforts and he is now living retired, enjoying in well earned rest the fruits of his former toil. He was born in Princeton, Illinois, November 8, 1856, and is a son of Henry and Henrietta (Eggert) Eggert, both of whom were natives of Germany and came to the United States in the latter part of the '40s, settling in St. Louis, where they resided for a short time. Mr. Eggert afterward removed to Bureau county, Illinois, where he purchased land, residing thereon until he came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, in 1882. Here he bought a farm and both he and his wife spent their remaining days thereon. They belonged to the German Lutheran church and Mr. Eggert gave his political endorsement to the democratic party. Their family numbered seven children: Mary, the wife of F. W. Welhner, connected with the stockyards at Kansas City; Lena, the wife of Jake Barrick, of Aurora; E. J.; Henry, a retired farmer of Aurora; Henrietta, the wife of John McCarthy, of Orange, California; C. S., who is living retired in Lincoln; and August, a retired farmer of Aurora.

At the usual age E. J. Eggert entered the district schools near his father's farm in Illinois and through vacation periods worked in the fields and after his

school days were over continued in the same occupation. It was in April, 1879, that he came to Hamilton county, bringing with him a team and breaking plow. He made the journey westward in a box car with a cousin. In this box car were loaded their household goods, four horses, two wagons and some lumber. They went to Grand Island by railroad and when they arrived the cousin's wife and uncle, who were to come first, had not yet reached there. Mr. Eggert and his cousin had no money and were not allowed to unload their car. He went into a livery stable, however, and the proprietor, John Saas, loaned him the money and the goods and supplies were then unloaded. This generosity to a stranger was typical of the spirit of helpfulness that prevailed among the pioneers. After getting their things from the car Mr. Eggert loaded the wagon with lumber and made a start for the homestead. So anxious was he to begin putting up his shack that he forgot all about provisions until hunger asserted itself. He went to a neighbor and asked for some water for his horses but the people had no water; and he then asked if the woman of the house would sell him a loaf of bread but she said she never baked. The situation was discouraging but Mr. Eggert finally spied another house some distance away where there was a windmill and thus he obtained water for the horses and also a fresh loaf of bread that had just been baked. After caring for his stock and appeasing his hunger he felt much better, setting to his work with renewed zeal. He obtained his assistance on the farm of Frank Wanek, who is still living near Giltner and is one of the substantial farmers of the county. Mr. Eggert at once began breaking prairie and followed this for two or three years. He then rented a farm, also engaged in threshing and in fact would do anything that would yield him an honest dollar. He purchased his first land—a tract of eighty acres—about 1883 or 1884, paying three hundred dollars down on the property and the balance at the rate of two hundred dollars per year. He broke a part of this land and sold it for twenty dollars per acre to his father-in-law. Later he purchased the interests of the heirs in his father's old homestead and he now owns the place which comprises one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land. He also owns two hundred and forty acres of land in Missouri and his property returns to him a gratifying annual income. He continued to till his fields and further develop and improve his farm until December 16, 1914, when he removed to Aurora, where he has since made his home.

In 1882 Mr. Eggert was married to Miss Nellie McCarthy and they became parents of three children: Mabel Esther, the wife of J. T. Stenner, an electrical engineer at the ice plant in Omaha; Charles Francis, who is on his father's farm; and Effie May. The wife and mother passed away in 1913 and on the 5th of September, 1917, Mr. Eggert was married to Mrs. Mary McRae, who was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Stewart and Annie Beers. She was a widow at the time of her marriage to Mr. Eggert. She belongs to the Episcopal church and Mr. Eggert has membership with the Highlanders, while his political support is given to the democratic party. For many years he has been connected with the Hamilton County Fair Association, served as its vice president for eight years and was then elected to the presidency which position he has occupied for the past five years. In this connection he has done much to stimulate interest in improved methods of agriculture and production and has aided largely in upholding the highest standards in everything that has to do with agricultural life in any

way. He has lived to see remarkable changes in the county since he arrived here as a young man of twenty-two years. There were then great sections of the county undeveloped and unimproved and many of the now thriving towns and cities had not yet sprung into existence, while no railroad crossed the county. In the work of progress Mr. Eggert has since borne his full share and has contributed especially in notable measure to the agricultural improvement of this section of the state.

JOHN J. SPRINGER

By knowing how to do things and then doing them with characteristic vigor and discrimination John J. Springer has won large and worthy success in connection with farm industry in Nebraska. Though he has met with discouragements and reverses at various times in his career, he has not faltered in courage or determination and Hamilton county has been the scene of his most effective activities as an agriculturist and stock raiser. Here he is now the owner of a well improved landed estate of three hundred and twenty acres, his fine home farm being situated one-half mile south of the village of Murphy, and one of the model places of Monroe township.

John J. Springer was born in Bureau county, Illinois, in the year 1867, and was there reared and educated, his father having become a prosperous farmer of that county, where he owned a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres at the time of his death. He is a son of Joseph and Madeline (Zimmerman) Springer, whose marriage was solemnized in Illinois and who passed the remainder of their lives in that state. Joseph Springer was born at Metz, France, and was twenty-four years of age at the time of the family immigration to the United States. He was eighty-four years of age at the time of his death, his wife having preceded him to eternal rest. They became the parents of three children, all sons, and of the number the subject of this sketch is the only one residing in Nebraska.

As a boy and youth John J. Springer gained wide knowledge of the labors and general operations of the home farm and this has proved of inestimable value to him in his independent farm enterprise of later years. He continued his residence in Illinois until 1890, when he came to Nebraska and established his residence in Seward county. He there invested virtually his total capital, seven hundred and fifty dollars, in farm land, but unfavorable conditions and circumstances over which he had no control finally caused him to lose all that he had invested, as well as the results of his earnest toil and endeavor as a farmer. It was at this juncture in his career, after eight years of residence in Seward county, that he came, in 1898, to Hamilton county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Monroe township, for which property he paid twenty-five dollars an acre. The place was but partly improved and he has not only erected excellent buildings but has otherwise brought the farm to a fine state of cultivation and with increasing prosperity has invested in additional land, until he now has a valuable estate of three hundred and twenty acres. While still a resident of Illinois he had worked as a farm hand and it was thus he earned the money with which he made

his original investment in Nebraska. He has known the efficacy of honest toil and this, coupled with good judgment and careful business policies, has brought his success in life and he has every reason to be gratified in the independence and prosperity that are his in the state and county of his adoption. In connection with diversified agriculture Mr. Springer has become a prominent breeder of fine Percheron horses and his is one of the best horse farms in this section of Nebraska, sales of horses from the place having been made in most diverse sections of the state and his reputation being wide in this special field of enterprise. On his farm he also raises full-blooded registered Poland China hogs of the best type.

Mr. Springer has been vital and progressive not only in his individual activities but also in his attitude as a citizen. While he has had no ambtion for political office he has been unswerving in his allegiance to the republican party and has taken well his part in community affairs. He held for twelve years the office of school director of his district. He and his family hold membership in the Mennonite church.

While a resident of Seward county Mr. Springer there married Miss Katie I. Springer and of this union have been born five sons and two daughters: Joseph C. died at the age of twenty-eight years and was survived by his widow and one child; John J., Ralph B., Frank E., and Albert E. remain at the parental home and are proving effective aids to their father in connection with farm operations; Mrs. Anna M. Reibger resides at Brule, Keith county; and Mrs. Lulu N. Schertz and her husband live on a farm near Aurora, judicial center of Hamilton county.

OSCAR SWANSON

Oscar Swanson, who is now residing in Saronville, was one of the early pioneers of Clay county. For many years he was prominent in the agricultural circles of the county as a successful and progressive farmer and is now enjoying a life of retirement as the result of former years spent in diligence and industry.

A native of Sweden, Oscar Swanson was born in that country on the 1st of December, 1846, and there remained until 1867, when he came to the United States. He spent his first year in Illinois, the succeeding year in Iowa and in 1871 came west, locating in Clay county. In that year the railroad came through Nebraska as far as Lincoln and Mr. Swanson made the journey by train. He acquired a homestead of eighty acres near Sutton, on which he built a lumber shanty, the first lumber dwelling to be built in the Sutton precinct. He broke the land himself with a yoke of oxen and soon had the homestead highly cultivated. There were very few settlers in the country at that time but some time after the railroad was put through the surrounding vicinity was quickly settled. There were three saloons in Sutton and no stores when Mr. Swanson moved into the county but soon after a store was established there, dealing in general merchandise, where most of his trading was done. Game such as antelopes, prairie chickens, quails, ducks and geese were plentiful in the community and Mr. Swanson enjoyed many hunting trips. Mr. and Mrs. Swanson resided on the old homestead until 1900, when they removed to Sutton, where they made their home until 1904 and subsequently went

to Saronville, where he built a nice home and there is now residing. Mr. Swanson is in possession of a four hundred acre tract of fine land in Clay county, from the cultivation of which he receives a substantial income.

In 1870 in Council Bluffs, Iowa, Mr. Swanson was united in marriage to Miss Betsy Hokenson and they have become parents of two children: Charles A., who is farming in Clay county near Sutton; and John W., also a farmer in the vicinity of Sutton.

For many years Mr. Swanson was a stanch supporter of the republican party, but he now gives his allegiance to the democratic party. Although he has devoted the greater part of his time to his farming he has taken an active interest in the development and improvement of the community and for two years served in the office of county supervisor. Both Mr. and Mrs. Swanson are consistent members of the Swedish Lutheran church and are generous contributors to its various charities. Throughout the county Mr. Swanson is recognized as a man of much ability and he is readily conceded to be a representative citizen of Saronville.

FRANK P. HARRISON

Frank P. Harrison, now deceased, was numbered among the representative farmers of Clay county, and his death on the 23rd of October, 1917, left a void in the community that will not be easily filled. A native of Illinois, he was born in McHenry county, September 3, 1862, a son of Charles and Mary (Rockwood) Harrison, the former a native of England and the latter of Vermont. The father came to this country when a young man, was for some time connected with railroad work as station agent at Ringwood and in later life followed farming.

Frank P. Harrison is indebted to the country schools of Illinois for his education and after putting his textbooks aside lived with his parents until seventeen years of age, when he started out in the world on his own account, getting work on farms in the vicinity of his home. After obtaining some experience along that line he rented land in Illinois, which he successfully operated until the early '90s, when he came to Nebraska and located in Thayer county. There he rented land for some time and then removed to Nuckolls county, remaining there for five years before coming to Clay county in 1900, where he followed farming one year. At the end of that time, in August, 1901, he moved into Ong and there bought stock in a hardware and furniture business, in the conduct of which he was associated with J. O. Walker. He later established a general hardware, furniture and undertaking business with Frank Bell, and became widely recognized throughout the county as a representative and successful business man. In 1909 he retired from active life, having acquired a competence that enabled him to live in comfort until his death.

In 1897 Mr. Harrison was married to Edith Walker, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of J. F. and Louisa (Hay) Walker, who came to Nebraska and located in Thayer county at an early day. Her father engaged in the real estate business and achieved a substantial amount of success in that connec-



FRANK P. HARRISON

tion. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison three children were born: Mary L., Edith Elizabeth and Charles, all at home.

Throughout his life Mr. Harrison gave his support to the republican party, in the interests of which he took an active part, although he neither sought nor desired office as a reward for party fealty. His religious faith was that of the Presbyterian church, in the activities of which organization his widow and children take a prominent part. Mr. Harrison identified his interests with those of his community and could always be counted upon to do his part in furthering the public welfare. At the news of his death a feeling of deep bereavement swept the community, for in his passing Clay county and Ong lost a progressive and representative citizen.

L. A. HIGGINS

Among Harvard's representative business men is numbered L. A. Higgins, proprietor of a hardware store, who owes his success and advancement in a business way to his close application and determined purpose. He comes from Illinois, his birth having occurred in Peoria county, July 23, 1868, his parents being J. W. and Caroline (Hunt) Higgins, who are likewise natives of Illinois. In the year 1885, when their son, L. A., was a youth of seventeen years, they came to Nebraska, settling in Buffalo county, and throughout his entire life the father followed the occupation of farming until his unfaltering industry and perseverance have brought him sufficient capital to enable him to live retired, since which time he and his wife have made their home in Amherst, Nebraska. They have always been loyal to the teachings of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which they hold membership and Mr. Higgins has long given his political support to the democratic party. For a number of years he served as county supervisor in Buffalo county and in many tangible ways has manifested his allegiance to all those interests which make for good citizenship and the welfare of the state.

L. A. Higgins is the eldest of a family of ten children. Liberal educational advantages were accorded him and he is today a well read man. He attended the district schools of Buffalo county, Nebraska, and throughout life has added much to his early knowledge gained in the schools by reading, by study and by observation. He started out to provide for his own support by farm work and later secured a clerkship in a store when twenty-five years of age. There he was employed as a salesman until 1896, when he removed to Kearney, Nebraska, and obtained a position as clerk in a hardware store, continuing at that place for four years. In 1901 he removed to Harvard and formed a partnership with W. E. Jakway and E. E. Hinkle of Lincoln, for the purchase of a hardware business which has been continued under the name of the L. A. Higgins Hardware Company until the present time. Mr. Higgins started out in this business in a small way but now has an extensive stock of shelf and heavy hardware and his patronage is most gratifying. He has ever realized that satisfied patrons are the best advertisement and he puts forth every effort to please his customers, while his straightforward dealings and progressive methods insure him a continuance of the trade.

In 1896, in Kearney, Nebraska, Mr. Higgins was married to Miss Ella Eutsler, who was born in Iowa and whose father was one of the prominent early farmers of Dawson county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Higgins have become the parents of five children: Marguerite, the wife of Ernest D. Lefever, a farmer of Stockham, Nebraska; Howard, who operates an elevator at Harvard; L. A., who is in the employ of his father; and Clyde and Blanche, who are attending school. Mr. and Mrs. Higgins have many warm friends and their social position is an enviable one, the best homes of the community being at all times open to them. Mrs. Higgins is a member of the Christian church. Mr. Higgins belongs to the Masonic fraternity and has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite and is a member of the Mystic Shrine. He is likewise indentified with the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of the United Workmen. He is past master of the Masonic lodge and a past chancellor commander of the Knights of Pythias. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, but he does not seek nor desire office, concentrating his entire time and attention upon his business affairs, and the thoroughness and energy which have characterized him have been the important features in the attainment of his present-day success. Moreover, the creditable methods which he has followed have established him high in the regard of his fellow townsmen.

AUGUST HOLDGRAF

August Holdgraf is occupying a pleasant home at No. 1214 Tenth street in Aurora. He removed to the city in 1917, after long connection with the farming interests of Hamilton county and through the intervening period has lived retired. He was born in Westphalia, Germany, February 2, 1852, a son of Henry and Christina (Holdgraf) Holdgraf, who were also natives of that country where they spent their entire lives, the father successfully following the occupation of farming. The grandfather, Henry Holdgraf, was also born and died in Germany and he, too, devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. Both of the parents of August Holdgraf were members of the German Reformed church. Their family numbered two children, the elder being Frederick William, who died in Germany.

The younger son, August Holdgraf of this review, obtained his education in the schools of his native country and lived on a farm in his youthful days, working at farm labor after his textbooks were put aside. At length he determined to try his fortune in the new world for the favorable reports which he had heard concerning the opportunities offered in the United States were very attractive to him. He arrived in Hamilton county in 1881 and here purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land on which he made a partial payment, meeting the remaining payments on time. He built a small house, hauling the lumber from Aurora and began the arduous task of developing and improving his place. As the years went by he converted his farm into a rich and productive tract and thereon engaged in raising stock of all kinds in addition to the production of the crops best adapted to soil and climate. He made a success in his undertakings and is still the owner of the farm property.

In 1882 Mr. Holdgraf was married to Miss Josephine George, a sister of John George, mentioned elsewhere in this work. To them have been born two children: Paul George, who is cultivating a rented farm near Marquette; and Emil August, who is living on his father's farm. Mr. Holdgraf and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church, interested in its growth and upbuilding. In politics he is a republican and when on the farm served as a member of the school board but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. He always preferred to concentrate his efforts and attention upon his business affairs and his close application and energy were the basis of his substantial success.

M. E. FLEMING

Sutton is fortunate in having among its citizens so progressive and valuable a man as M. E. Fleming, who for many years has been engaged in the coal business there. A native of New York, he was born in Tarrytown, December 15, 1873, his parents being Henry and Catherine (Magher) Fleming, both natives of Ireland. The father was born in County Kilkenny and the mother in County Tipperary and both came to the United States about 1863 or 1864. Their marriage occurred in New York and for three or four years they made their home in Tarrytown. In 1874, however, Henry Fleming removed his family to Clay county, Nebraska, and there purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land, for which he paid cash. His first home on that place was a dugout, but later he built a frame house. His death occurred on the old farm place, June 18, 1918, and his widow still resides there, being now in possession of the land. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Fleming nine children were born, eight of whom are living: Mrs. M. J. McLaughlin, who is residing on a farm in Clay county; M. E., whose name initiates this review; Mrs. George Dunham, who is residing in Fillmore county on a farm; Mrs. Ed. D. Allen, residing on a farm in Hastings; Dr. T. N., who is a fine physician of Cold Springs, Minnesota; James F., who is residing on a farm in Clay county; John J., residing with his mother on the old home place; and William P., who is working for the state in the chemical department at Grand Island. Another son, Henry, is deceased. Mr. Fleming was a consistent member of the Catholic church and well known as a member of the Knights of Columbus. His political allegiance was given to the democratic party. At the time of his death Mr. Fleming owned a whole section of land in Clay county and the fortune he acquired was the result of his own diligence and industry. Deep grief was felt by his many friends at his passing and the void left in the community will be hard to fill.

M. E. Fleming received his education in school district No. 9, Clay county, and after putting his textbooks aside engaged in farming, which line of work he followed for seven years. He then came to Sutton in 1905 and engaged in the clothing business, building up a large trade and continuing in that connection for a period of fifteen years. At the termination of that time he sold out his clothing establishment and launched into the coal business. He is still active in the conduct of the latter business and has built up an extensive and lucrative trade.

In 1907 Mr. Fleming was married to Miss Rose E. Egan, a native of Illinois

and a daughter of Cornelius Egan, who came to Nebraska in 1903. He was a well known man in the community in which he resided and his death occurred near Grafton. Mr. and Mrs. Fleming have become parents of four children: Henry J., Mary, Clara and Edward, all attending school.

In his political views Mr. Fleming has always been a member of the democratic party, having firm belief in the principles of that party as factors in good government. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church and fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Columbus, of which lodge he has been financial secretary since its organization. Mr. Fleming is widely known throughout Clay county, is highly respected for his integrity in all business matters, and is one of the thrifty and enterprising citizens of his portion of the state.

S. P. ROSENBAUM

S. P. Rosenbaum, closely associated with the commercial interests of Harvard as proprietor of a general mercantile establishment, was born in Syracuse, New York, April 12, 1853, and is a son of Phillip and Lena (Braun) Rosenbaum, both of whom were natives of Bavaria, Germany. They came to America in a sailing vessel in the '40s and were six weeks on the voyage. He settled in Syracuse, New York, where he engaged in the wholesale hardware business and in 1861 removed to New York, where he conducted a hardware store until 1863. He then retired from business but both he and his wife continued to make their home in New York until called to their final rest, their remains being interred in one of the cemeteries of the eastern metropolis. Both were members of the Reformed church and Mr. Rosenbaum gave his political support to the republican party. They were the parents of four children, of whom but two are living: Ray and S. P., the former now Mrs. Smith and resident of Brooklyn, New York.

S. P. Rosenbaum was educated in New York city and started out in the business world in connection with a wholesale millinery enterprise, remaining with that house for ten years. In 1877 he came to Nebraska, settling at Hastings, where he remained for a short time but the following year removed to Harvard. Here he was connected with Sam Wolbach, now of Grand Island, Nebraska, and opened a general store in 1881, taking over the business from Wolbach Brothers. He increased the stock and in November, 1912, erected a large building, in which he carries everything found in a general merchandise establishment, save furniture. His stock is extensive and attractive and the store is accorded a liberal patronage. Mr. Rosenbaum also conducts a store at Fairfield and devotes his entire time to the management of the business which he has carefully and systematically directed, making his efforts the broad foundation upon which he has built the superstructure of success.

On the 6th of March, 1881, Mr. Rosenbaum was married to Miss Henrietta Weil, a native of Newark, New Jersey, and to them have been born five children: Percival, who is in the store with his father; Edwin and Rolland S., who are also with their father; Harold A., who is a practicing physician of Chicago; and Eva, who is a teacher in a Chicago kindergarten. Mr. Rosenbaum is a member of the

Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen and is a loyal follower of the teachings and purposes of these societies. In politics he is a republican and has served as a member of the city council and president of the board and for some time was acting mayor of Harvard. He has at all times sought the public good through the capable discharge of his official duties and his fellow townsmen recognize in him a progressive and reliable citizen as well as an enterprising business man.

JOHN P. PETERSON

For forty-three years John P. Peterson, now deceased, was a prominent resident of Clay county, where he successfully engaged in farming. He was born in Sweden December 9, 1848.

John P. Peterson was about twenty years of age when he decided to come to America and landing in this country went to Illinois, where he made his first home. For about five years he resided in that state, farming rented land, but in 1874 determined to remove farther west, with the result that he came to Nebraska and bought land in Clay county. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of school land on which there were no improvements but with the aid of his farm machinery which he brought from Illinois he soon had the land under cultivation. Along with the other things he shipped from Illinois was a house belonging to his wife's father, which he put on the farm and therein resided for the first summer. He later, however, moved a larger and more modern dwelling onto the place. When Mr. Peterson arrived in Clay county he had but little money and he bought his land on time but being a man of grim determination and energy he worked himself upward step by step until at the time of his death he was in possession of two hundred and eighty acres of fine improved land in the county. In November, 1917, occurred the death of Mr. Peterson and at the news of his demise a deep feeling of bereavement swept the community in which he had so long resided and in which he had many stanch friends.

While residing in Illinois in 1869 Mr. Peterson was united in marriage to Miss Martha Johnson, a native of Sweden and to them twelve children were born: Mrs. Ida Aspregren of Clay county; Nellie Nelson, residing in Clay county; Helma Aspregren of Clay county; Hanna England, a resident of Clay county; Wendel Peterson, who is farming in Clay county; Lillie Johnson, residing near Harvard; Eddie, living in Clay county; Irene Rodelius, residing in Evanston, Illinois; Roy, who is living on the old home place; Esther, at home; Nettie Swartz, who is residing at Staplehurst; and Ethel at home. In 1900 Mr. and Mrs. Peterson removed to Saronville, where they built a fine home and there Mrs. Peterson is now residing. She is a consistent member of the Methodist church and active in all of the affairs of that organization.

Mr. Peterson was in every sense of the word a self-made man, his success having been achieved by hard work, intelligently directed. He was quick to grasp every opportunity offered him and though he suffered loss of crops by grasshopper

and hailstorms he allowed no obstacle to remain in his path nor to dampen his spirits. Although the greater portion of Mr. Peterson's time was devoted to farming he also took an active part in the development and improvement of the community and for many years was a member of the school board and held the office of county assessor. In his passing Clay county lost both a representative and pioneer citizen, and his demise left a void in the community which will be hard to fill.

J. P. CHAPMAN

J. P. Chapman, whose furtniture and undertaking establishment in Aurora is one of the progressive business enterprises of the city, was born in Lucas county, Iowa, August 13, 1855, and is a son of Simeon B. and Sarah Jane (Mitchell) Chapman. The father was born in Pennsylvania and the mother in Indiana, in which state they were married. The Chapman family is of English lineage and the ancestral line is traced back to Uriah Chapman, the great-grandfather of J. P. Chapman of this review. His son, Simeon Chapman, removed from Pennsylvania to Ohio and afterward became a resident of Missouri, then moved to Iowa in an early day, where his last days were passed. He was a cooper by trade and was also one of the heroes of the Revolutionary war, joining the army when very young and aiding in the struggle for independence. The grandfather in the maternal line was a native of Kentucky and in an early day became one of the pioneer residents of Indiana. He had a son, Robert Mitchell, who was killed in the Mexican war and was buried in the land of the Montezumas. It was his sister, Sarah Jane Mitchell, who became the wife of Simeon B. Chapman and following their marriage in Indiana they removed to Missouri and afterward to Iowa, where they continued to reside until called to their final rest. The father always followed the occupation of farming as a life work, thus providing for the support of his family. He was a most thorough Bible student and possessed a remarkable memory. He held membership in the Universalist church and gave his political support to the republican party. To him and his wife were born ten children, but only three are living: L. M., a retired ranchman residing in Oregon; R. R., a retired farmer of Aurora, Nebraska; and J. P., of this review.

The last named pursued his education in the common schools of Iowa, attending first the district schools and afterward those of the town, for his parents left the farm when he was ten years of age. In early life he began learning the painting and paper-hanging trades which he followed for a short time and then took up photography. Still later he engaged in the furniture business, opening a store of that kind in the old town of Hamilton in October, 1877. Later he disposed of his interest in the furniture business to his partner, C. R. Glover, and removed his photographic studio to Aurora, where he has since made his home. In 1885 he again became connected with mercantile pursuits, becoming associated with William Glover in the hardware and furniture trade under the firm style of William Glover & Company. At a later period the hardware stock was sold and Mr. Chapman concentrated his energies upon the furniture and undertaking business, in which he has since been engaged, carrying on his interests under the firm style of the

Chapman Furniture Company in which his son is now associated with him. Both are graduate undertakers. He won his undertaking license in 1890, completing his course with the second class in the state. The firm enjoys a liberal patronage in both branches of its business and progressive methods have always characterized the work of Mr. Chapman, who early realized that industry and perseverance are indispensable elements of success and has utilized those qualities to good account in the attainment of prosperity. The firm today has a very large store and carries an extensive stock of furniture. In addition to his mercantile interests Mr. Chapman owns one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land near Aurora and his property is the visible evidence of his life of well directed energy and thrift.

In August, 1879, Mr. Chapman was married to Sarah Eckerson, who was born in Wisconsin and removed to De Kalb, Illinois, with her parents, afterward going to Iowa, while at a later period her father established the family home in Nebraska, arriving in this state in 1878. He purchased land and passed away in Hamilton county in 1884. His widow survives at the age of more than eighty years and is now making her home with Mr. and Mrs. Chapman, who by their marriage became the parents of two children: Glenn S., who was born in 1882, was graduated from the Aurora high school in 1901 and afterward studied for a year in the State University. In June, 1903, he became connected in business with his father and the partnership has since been maintained. He was married in 1911 to Fay Dixon and they have become parents of three daughters: Phyllis, Marian and Ruth; the second member of the family of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Chapman is Erma, now the wife of Emil Holdgraf. Mr. and Mrs. Chapman are members of the Presbyterian church, loyal to its teachings and interested in its growth. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias and to the Modern Woodmen of America, while his political faith is that of the republican party. He is truly a self-made man and deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, as he started out in life empty handed at an early age. Steadily he has advanced, each forward step bringing him a broader outlook and wider opportunities and today he is classed among the most progressive and prosperous merchants of Aurora.

AXEL FREDRICKSON

The vigorous optimism born of self reliance and determined purpose has been a definite force in the career of Axel Fredrickson, who through his own efforts has become one of the substantial representatives of farm industry in Hamilton county, where his excellently improved farm is situated in section 18, Phillips township.

Mr. Fredrickson was born in Sweden in 1868, and there he received his early education, besides gaining a due quota of practical experience. He was twenty-one years of age when in 1889 he came to the United States, firm in his confidence that through his own labors he could here make for himself a place of independence. With a sane outlook upon life he was ready to prove his value in whatever line he directed his energies and soon found employment in connection with construction work on the first division of the Union Pacific Railroad, which was virtually his first service after he came to Nebraska. He was given charge of a construction

gang and continued his active alliance with this branch of railroad work until 1902, when he purchased eighty acres of his present farm. He had accumulated a fund of one thousand and four hundred dollars and in purchasing his farm expended this and also assumed an indebtedness of two thousand and six hundred dollars. By energy and good management he not only developed and improved his land but was able also to clear himself of debt within a period of six years. All this meant hard work and close application, but the end justified the means, as is evident in the fact that he is now the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres, improved with modern buildings and maintained at a high standard of productiveness. He gives his attention largely to the raising of corn and his success has proved the value of his work in this department of agricultural enterprise.

Mr. Fredrickson's interest in politics is simply that of a loyal public-spirited citizen who has no ambition for office of any kind, and he gives his support to the republican party. He and his wife are earnest communicants of the Swedish Lutheran church.

At Aurora, Hamilton county, in 1899, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Fredrickson to Miss Mary Anderson, daughter of Andrew Erickson, one of the sterling pioneer settlers of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Fredrickson have three children: Florence, Lillie and Aldie, all of whom remain at the parental home. A fourth child died in infancy. Mr. Fredrickson is distinctly one of the world's productive workers and is well entitled to the substantial prosperity that has attended his earnest efforts.

J. P. CHERRY

The attractiveness of Hamilton county as a place of residence is indicated in the fact that so many of her farmers have won success that now enables them to live retired in the enjoyment of the fruits of their former toil. To this class belongs J. P. Cherry who is a resident of Aurora and who comes to the state from Ohio, his birth having occurred in Muskingum county, July 12, 1850. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey Cherry who were reared in Ohio, but at the time of the gold excitement in California the father started for the Pacific coast. He was shipwrecked en route and was never heard from again. The mother died when her son, J. P. Cherry, was but three years of age and the boy was reared by a cousin, Mr. Shamblin. He pursued his education in the public schools of his native state and continued a resident of Ohio until 1862, when he went to Iowa and there rented a farm, continuing to make his home in that state for two decades. In 1882 he became a resident of Nebraska and purchased two hundred and forty acres of land at ten and twenty dollars per acre, buying this from the railroad company. He had ten years in which to make the payments upon this property. He had a three-room frame house and in the early days met the usual experiences of life on the frontier but persistently and energetically carried on his work and as the result of his diligence and determination won success as the years passed. He



MR. AND MRS. J. P. CHERRY

continued to reside upon the farm until January 13, 1915, when he removed to Aurora, thus putting aside the active work of the fields.

It was in Iowa, before his removal to this state, that Mr. Cherry was united in marriage to Miss Margaret E. Grim who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Joseph Grim, who became a resident of Iowa in early times and there followed the occupation of farming. To Mr. and Mrs. Cherry were born three children, two of whom are living: Joseph, a farmer residing on his father's farm near Phillips, Nebraska; and Vernie, the wife of Clyde Cogil, also living on her father's farm near Phillips. Mrs. Cherry passed away in 1905, at the age of forty-five years and eighteen days. She was a member of the Freewill Baptist church and was a lady of many estimable qualities. In 1908 Mr. Cherry was married to Georgiana Eppner, a native of Iowa, where her father settled in early pioneer times. Again Mr. Cherry was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife in 1919, for Mrs. Georgiana Cherry passed away on the 4th of July of that year. She was a loyal member of the Christian church and Mr. Cherry attends services at that church. His political endorsement is given to the republican party but he has never sought nor desired office, preferring always to concentrate his energies and attention upon his business affairs. It has been by reason of his close application and unabating diligence that he has gained the place which he now occupies as one of the men of affluence in Aurora and his record illustrates what can be accomplished through individual effort. He still owns eighty acres of land, having given his children eighty acres each. While upon the farm he raised considerable stock and in all that he undertook met with success, so that he is thoroughly justified in enjoying the rest which is now his, the result of his former activities supplying him at the present time with all of the comforts of life.

F. A. BUTLER, M. D.

For thirty-six years Dr. F. A. Butler has engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Harvard and such has been his devotion to the duties of his profession that he well merits the high regard and warm esteem entertained for him throughout the county. The summer's sun has never been too hot nor the winter's cold too severe for him to respond to a call of suffering and in the earlier days perhaps no one was better known than Dr. Butler as he drove from place to place in all parts of the county, alleviating pain and suffering and carrying with him an atmosphere of cheer and comfort. A native of Illinois, his birth occurred in Jacksonville, January 22, 1854, his parents being James L. and Oletha P. (Sargent) Butler, the former a native of Virginia, while the latter was born in Ohio. The grandfather, William Sargent, represented Morgan county, Illinois, in the state legislature at the time that Abraham Lincoln was a member from Sangamon county. The parents were married in Illinois, having become residents of that state in an early day and there the father engaged in the occupation of farming. He served in the Black Hawk war of 1832 and went through many of the experiences and hardships of pioneer life. Some time afterward he removed to Parsons, Kansas, where he lived a few years when death called him to the home beyond and

his wife also passed away there. They were both members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Butler gave his political endorsement to the republican party. To him and his wife were born twelve children, of whom seven are living: A. C., who has been superintendent of schools at Abingdon, Illinois, for fifteen years; F. A., of this review; Thomas Butler, who is successfully engaged in the practice of medicine in Seattle, Washington; Melton, who occupies the old homestead farm in Kansas; Mrs. Belle Duree, living at Edna, Kansas; Harriett, the wife of John Henson, a farmer and stockman, residing at Newalla, Oklahoma; and Mary Malinda, the wife of Joseph Essig of Parsons, Kansas. One son, John T. Butler, was a very prominent figure in political circles in San Diego, California, serving as county clerk and as a city official. He was also very prominent in Masonic circles, the honorary thirty-third degree being conferred upon him. He passed away in 1916. The eldest of the family was Charles Wesley Butler who went with Sherman on the celebrated march from Atlanta to the sea during the Civil war. Later he was taken prisoner and for a time was at Libby prison, after which he was transferred to Richmond and was there incarcerated at the time Grant captured the city. After a furlough home he went to camp in Springfield, Illinois, and there passed away.

Doctor Butler obtained his education in the common schools of Illinois and later attended the Kansas Normal school at Fort Scott, afterwards winning the degrees of D. S. C. and A. M. in Chicago College. He also attended the Iowa State Medical College, where he studied both pharmacy and medicine and in 1879 was graduated in medicine from the Louisville University of Louisville, Kentucky. He practiced in a hospital at Sheridan, Illinois, for a period of six years and gained the broad and valuable knowledge and experience which hospital practice brings. In 1885 Doctor Butler arrived in Harvard, Nebraska, and through the intervening period to the present time sixty-eight physicians have located in this city but the greater number have been forced to seek a location elsewhere. Doctor Butler, however, throughout the years has enjoyed a good and paying practice, the public recognizing his ability and efficiency in his chosen field. In twenty-five years he drove but six horses in making his calls all over the county. He would go day and night at any time his services were needed and his course has always been characterized by a broad humanitarian spirit as well as comprehensive professional knowledge and skill, so that through the years he has ever enjoyed a large practice and has won success as time has passed.

On the 1st of September, 1887, Doctor Butler was married to Miss Emma Keebler, a native of Pennsylvania, and they have become parents of two children: Fletcher A. of Lincoln, Nebraska, who is married and has one child, Virginia; and Oletha, the wife of William McCommins of Rock Island, Illinois, who served as a soldier of the World war. Mrs. McCommins is a talented musician and is now playing the pipe organ in a church of Rock Island.

Both Dr. Butler and his wife are consistent and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church and politically he is a democrat, but has never sought nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his energy and attention upon his practice and his business affairs, for as the years have gone by he has accumulated large property holdings, having now ten hundred and forty acres of land, of which four hundred acres is situated in Clay county and the remainder in various sections

of Nebraska. He is also the owner of land in Oklahoma." In his profession he has ever held to the highest standards and has kept in touch with progressive thought and methods through his membership in the Clay County, Nebraska State and American Medical Associations. He has attended the American Medical Association six different times as a delegate from the state and has been president of the county organization and also of the York District Medical Society. He has likewise held many positions of honor and trust in the State Medical Association and for thirty years has been the contract surgeon of the Northwestern Railway Company of Clay county. He has recently attended the American College of Surgeons at Omaha with the expectation of becoming a member thereof. He has always specialized in gynecology and surgery and has been particularly skillful in these fields of practice. He has taken much post-graduate work in Chicago, in Rochester, Minnesota, in Louisville, Kentucky, and in New York city, thus acquainting himself with the most advanced methods and ideas of the eminent physicians and surgeons of America.

J. M. GRAY

Among the worthy and representative citizens of Sutton is J. M. Gray, who for many years was prominent in the lumber circles there and throughout the county, but is now living retired, enjoying the fruits of his many years of industry. Mr. Gray was born in Marion, Iowa, August 30, 1843, a son of Hosea and Nancy Ann (Smith) Gray, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Indiana. They were married in Marion, Iowa, however, where the father had come in 1837 and the mother a year later. Hosea Gray was an able and prominent attorney and for many years practiced in Marion. He also had the distinction of being the first sheriff of Lynn county, that state. In 1871 he decided to come west, with the result that he located in Sutton, resuming his law practice. At the time of his arrival Sutton boasted of but one house and that a dugout belonging to Luther French, an early homesteader. Mr. Gray loaned money to Mr. French to lay out the town of Sutton in lots. For some time Mr. Gray had a partner, A. A. McCoy, and they dealt in land in connection with their law practice. At the time of his death in 1885 Mr. Gray had become quite prosperous and was widely known throughout the county. His wife passed away in 1868 in Iowa. Nine children were born to that union, of whom J. M. Gray is the oldest. Seven are living, but only one besides our subject resides in Sutton, a sister, Mrs. Sam Carney. Mrs. Gray was a consistent member of the Congregational church, while her husband was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was a Scottish Rite Mason and served as master of the Marion, Iowa, lodge for many years. Politically Hosea Gray was a stanch republican, having helped to organize that party in Iowa. He always took an active part in politics and was a member of the constitutional convention of Iowa in 1856. Mr. Gray was a well educated man and great reader. Upon the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in the Union army, organizing Company A, Sixth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and went into service as captain of that regiment, with which he served for nearly three years. He was then taken sick and received

an honorable discharge. He was commissioned a brevet colonel at the close of the war.

J. M. Gray is indebted to the schools of Marion, Iowa, for his education and after graduating from the high school there he worked in a woolen factory at Cedar Rapids, that state, remaining in that connection for three years. In 1869 he removed to Belle Plaine and for the next three years engaged in the general mercantile business. At the termination of that time, or in the fall of 1871, he came to Sutton and opened the first lumber-yard there. He soon proved his ability, establishing an extensive business, in the conduct of which he was active until 1919 when he sold the yard. He is now financially independent and is enjoying a life of retirement.

In 1875 Mr. Gray was married to Miss Emma Jane Wolcott, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Daniel H. and Jane (Seymour) Wolcott. Both of her parents were natives of New York state but were married in Illinois. In the early '40s they went to Illinois and afterward removed to Iowa, where he successfully engaged in farming. Mr. Wolcott was in service during the Civil war, having enlisted in a company of Iowa infantry, with which he served for three years. His death occurred in a hospital as the result of a wound received while in action. One of his sons, Alden, enlisted in the service with him. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wolcott, Mrs. Gray and Alden being the only ones living. To Mr. and Mrs. Gray three children have been born, two of whom are living: Homer W., who is residing in Havelock, where he is conducting one of his father's lumber-yards, is married and has four children: John Maxwell, Catherine, Homer Thomas, and Mary Margaret; and Ada Jane, who is now the wife of G. H. Huard of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, a retired lumberman.

The political allegiance of Mr. Gray is given to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church and fraternally he is an Ancient Free and Accepted Mason. In the banking circles of Sutton he is likewise prominent, being a stockholder in the City National Bank. Mr. Gray built a beautiful residence in 1876, in which he resided for a number of years, but in 1905 he erected a more modern one in which he now makes his home.

W. T. PERRY

W. T. Perry, whose well appointed furniture and hardware store is one of the leading commercial interests of Harvard, was born in Marshall county, Illinois, December 26, 1844, his parents being W. H. and Mary (Hollenbeck) Perry, who were natives of Kentucky and Ohio, respectively. Their marriage was celebrated, however, in Illinois and there the father devoted his life to the occupation of farming, thus providing for the support of his family. He had a section of good land and his careful cultivation of his fields brought to him a substantial annual income. In his late years he became a member of the Christian church, while his wife was long an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Politically he was a

democrat. In the family of this worthy couple were thirteen children, six of whom are living.

W. T. Perry is the eldest of the family and the only one residing in Nebraska. He obtained a district school education in his native county and when not busy with his textbooks gave his attention to the work of the fields, continuing to devote his time to farming there until thirty-two years of age. He then decided to take up commercial pursuits and established a hardware business at La Rose, Illinois, in 1876, continuing to reside at that place until his removal to Harvard. Here he opened a hardware store and is today the oldest merchant in this place in years of continuous connection with its trade interests and also one of the oldest merchants of the county, having taken up his abode in Nebraska in 1879. He started in business with a small stock and now has a large store, carrying a fine line of hardware and furniture. He owns the building which he occupies, which is twenty-four by sixty feet. This he erected in 1884.

In 1873 Mr. Perry was united in marriage to Miss Susan McCune, who was born in Ohio, and they became the parents of four sons: James Leroy, who is deputy county clerk at Clay Center; Charles, who is in business with his father; B. Frank, who is filling the office of county clerk at Red Cloud, Nebraska; and Fred, a radiator repair man, living in Hastings, Nebraska. After the death of Mrs. Perry in 1914 Mr. Perry wedded Mrs. Vernie Turner, the widow of William Turner and a representative of one of the pioneer families of Clay county, her parents having located here at a very early day. Mr. Perry belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and his political support is given to the democratic party. He withholds his cooperation from no plan nor measure that he deems of general public worth and in all matters of citizenship has stood on the side of progress, reform, improvement and advancement.

JOHN BENSON

John Benson, now living retired in Saronville, was born in Sweden on the 28th of October, 1843, and there resided until 1870, when he came to the United States.

The education of John Benson was received in his native country, where he made his home until he was twenty-seven years of age, at which time he came to the United States, moved directly to Nebraska and secured work in Saunders county. For about two years he was employed on the railroad in that county and then removed to Friend, where he was engaged as section foreman for seven years. In 1873 he bought eighty acres of land in Clay county, near Saronville, but retained his work on the railroad until he had the land entirely paid for. In 1879 he moved upon the land and commenced farming, making his home in a small lumber house which stood on the farm. He erected a straw barn for his cattle. The success of Mr. Benson as an agriculturist seemed assured from the start and he at one time owned seventeen hundred acres of land, one hundred and seventy-two acres of which are located in Fillmore county. He has given this land to his children, who are following in his footsteps as successful farmers. After becoming financially independent Mr. Benson decided to retire from active life and removed to Saron-

ville, where he built a fine home. He also owns a twenty-acre tract just outside of that place.

In 1866 Mr. Benson was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Swanson, and to them eleven children have been born, nine of whom are living.

As a prominent member of the community Mr. Benson has always taken an active part in every movement for the furtherance of the general welfare. For nine years he was county supervisor and he is now a member of the board of directors of the State Bank at Saronville. Mr. Benson has many friends who appreciate his true personal worth and he is readily conceded to be a representative citizen.

T. H. BENNETT

Thomas H. Bennett, deceased, who was familiarly known as "Tom," was for many years a well known resident of Clay county and for a considerable period conducted business as a merchant of Harvard. He was born in Waterford, Wisconsin, August 6, 1850, and passed away in May, 1909. His parents were Edward and Mary Bennett, the former probably born in Ireland, while the latter, it is definitely known, was a native of Cork, Ireland. On coming to the new world Edward Bennett settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, and afterward followed the occupation of farming in Wisconsin for a number of years. He and his wife reared a family of four sons, of whom Thomas H. is the eldest. The parents were members of the Roman Catholic church.

Thomas H. Bennett of this review acquired his education in the schools of Wisconsin and when starting out to provide for his own support turned his attention to farming—the occupation to which he had been reared. On attaining his majority, however, he accepted a position as traveling representative of the J. I. Case Company, agricultural implement manufacturers, and continued on the road until thirty-four years of age, or for a period of thirteen years. In 1884 he purchased a half interest in the furniture and undertaking business of Joseph A. Rupiper, his father-in-law, and in 1886 became sole owner, acquiring his father-in-law's business in partnership with C. J. Scott, later buying Mr. Scott's interest. He then conducted the store independently until 1892, when he sold out and returned to Wisconsin. Later, however, he again came to Harvard and was here living when death called him, his demise being of a tragic nature, for he was killed by a horse.

On the 25th of December, 1884, Mr. Bennett was married to Miss Josie C. Rupiper, a daughter of Joseph A. and Fidelia A. (Foat) Rupiper. The father was born in Westphalia, Germany, and the mother in Wisconsin. Mr. Rupiper was but six years of age when brought by his parents to the new world, the family home being established in Cincinnati, Ohio. Later he removed to Wisconsin and resided in that state until 1879, when he came to Harvard. Here he opened a furniture and undertaking establishment and built the first two-story business building in the town, shipping the lumber from De Pere, Wisconsin, ready to be used in the construction of the building. He was closely associated with the pioneer development and later progress of the community until his death, which occurred in 1892.

His widow is now living at the old home at Harvard. Mr. and Mrs. Rupiper were also members of the Catholic church. To Mr. and Mrs. Bennett were born two sons and a daughter: Fidelia M., the wife of Anthony Dieringer and the mother of two children—Joseph T. and Fidelia M.; Edward J., a Chicago credit manager for the Packard Automobile Company; and George, who is a telegraph operator for the Northwestern Railroad Company at Wahoo, Nebraska. The religious faith of the family is that of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Bennett served as a member of the city council in 1887 and was always deeply interested in the welfare and progress of the community in which he made his home.

In connection with the family history more extended mention should be made of Edward J. Bennett who was born on the 28th of July, 1887, and who in April, 1917, enlisted for service in the World war at Omaha, Nebraska. He was on duty there for three months with the Fifth Regiment at Fort Crook and was then rejected on account of physical disability but later was taken in the draft on the 18th of October, 1917. He subsequently went across, remaining overseas for a year and eight months and was with the Army of Occupation at Coblenz, Germany, acting as army field clerk. He joined the American forces as sergeant in the Eighty-ninth Division and was discharged on the 18th of June, 1919.

CHARLES CASE

Charles Case during life was highly respected by his friends and associates and for many years was identified with the development of his adopted state, in which he resided at the time of his death, which occurred in Sutton, May 25, 1911. He was born in Burlington, Iowa, June 15, 1867, a son of Samuel and Mary (Horton) Case, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of Ohio. They came to Fillmore county, Nebraska, in a covered wagon in 1871, homesteaded and also took up a tree claim near Sutton.

Charles Case received his education in the country schools of the county and in the Sutton schools. He was reared on a farm and it was only natural that he should choose that line of occupation for his life work. He owned a quarter section of fine land in Fillmore county, four miles east of Sutton and there engaged in general farming, becoming well known throughout the county as an agriculturist of ability and enterprise.

On the 20th of February, 1894, occurred the marriage of Mr. Case and Miss Jessie Kendall, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of Stephen and Elvira (Stevens) Kendall. Her father was born in the state of New York and came to Illinois at the age of two. When ten years of age he removed with his parents to Wisconsin and subsequently came to Sutton, where his death occurred in 1907. The mother of Mrs. Case was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, in 1845. Her parents came from Chicago in a covered wagon, locating in Wisconsin. Mrs. Case is of English ancestry and three of her ancestors came over in the Mayflower. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Case: Lewis, whose birth occurred March 26, 1896, and who died at Camp Funston, after being in camp but six weeks; Helen, born August 27, 1897, who is the wife of Henry Everts, a farmer residing east of

Sutton; Frank, whose birth occurred on the 16th of May, 1899, and who is now farming the home place; Maude, whose natal day was February 28, 1901, and who is now teaching school; Stephen, born on the 2d of July, 1905, and who is now in school; Mabel, whose birth occurred January 6, 1907, and who is now in school; Della, born on the 24th of February, 1909; and Lucy, born October 26, 1910.

Throughout his life Mr. Case was a stanch supporter of the republican party and his religious faith was that of the Congregational church, in the activities of which organization his widow still takes a prominent part. Fraternally he was identified with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. By the passing of Mr. Case on the 25th of May, 1919, Sutton lost a valuable citizen, for he was ever active in the interests of that town and the county in which he had made his home for so many years. Mrs. Case remained on the old farm, following her husband's death, until 1920, when she removed to Sutton in order to give her children greater educational advantages and she has bought a nice home there. Mrs. Case's mother makes her home with them.

S. H. RICHARDSON

A prosperous and highly respected citizen of Clay county is S. H. Richardson, who has long devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits. He is now, however, living in Harvard, retired, enjoying the rewards derived from years of intelligently directed labor. He was born in Bureau county, Illinois, on the 17th of August, 1840, a son of Stephen and Erepta (Wilder) Richardson, both natives of Vermont. About 1832 they removed to Illinois, where the father engaged in farming until his death. His wife also passed away there. Seven children were born to that union, of whom our subject was the fourth in order of birth and he and a brother are the only children living. Throughout his life Stephen Richardson was a stanch supporter of the republican party and both he and his wife were consistent members of the United Brethren church.

S. H. Richardson is indebted to the country schools of Illinois for his education and he taught school, beginning when nineteen years of age in the home district schools across the road from where he was born, and he lived with his parents on the home farm. He later engaged in farming for himself and until 1891 operated land near Springfield, Illinois. In that year, however, he came to Nebraska and located in Clay county, where he bought four hundred acres of land. There he resided for about ten years, when he removed to Harvard and retired from active business life. He is a veteran of the Civil war, having entered the Union army on the 17th of August, 1861, and served over three years. He enlisted in Company C, Seventh Illinois Cavalry, the Army of the Tennessee, and participated in several important battles and skirmishes.

In 1865 Mr. Richardson was united in marriage to Emily Dayton, a native of Bureau county, Illinois, and a daughter of Chauncy L. Dayton. Her father was born in New York and went to Illinois at an early day. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, all of whom are deceased. Mrs. Richardson passed away on the 31st of December, 1910. Mr. Richardson has five living



MR. AND MRS. S. H. RICHARDSON



grandchildren: Howard Johnson, who is employed by the government at Washington city; May Johnson, who is residing in Clay Center, where she has charge of an incubator plant; Charles Johnson, who is farming near Eldorado; Everett R. Johnson, who is engaged with his brother Charles in farming; and Agnes Johnson, who is married and is now residing on a farm in North Dakota.

Mr. Richardson has always given his political allegiance to the republican party and fraternally is identified with the Woodmen, and is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic post. Mrs. Richardson, during her life, was a consistent and active member of the Congregational church. Mr. Richardson is the owner of a fine farm in North Dakota and is financially independent. Following for many years agricultural pursuits on a large scale, he labored hard and faithfully and is well entitled to the rest from hard work which he is now enjoying.

HAMILTON J. WILLIS

Hamilton J. Willis is now living retired in Aurora but for a long period was connected with farming interests in this state. He has now passed the seventy-ninth milestone on life's journey and the rest which has come to him is the fitting crown of a life of industry, enterprise and integrity. He was born in Vinton county, Ohio, February 15, 1842, and comes of Scotch ancestry. His grandfather, Amiel Willis, was born in the land of hills and heather and became the founder of the family in the new world, spending his last days in Virginia. His son, Stephen H. Willis, was born in Greenbrier county, West Virginia, and after arriving at years of maturity wedded Hester Stephens, a native of Ohio, their marriage being celebrated in that state after which they continued to reside within its borders. Mr. Willis was a farmer throughout his entire life and thus provided for his family, which numbered eight children, of whom only two are now living, Hamilton J. and William Alexander, the latter a resident of Cincinnati, where he has retired from business. The parents were devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church and politically Mr. Willis was a republican. In all of his business affairs he displayed enterprise, keen discernment and thorough reliability and won substantial success.

Hamilton J. Willis was educated in the schools of Ohio and when twenty years of age enlisted in August, 1862, for service in the Civil war, becoming a member of Company B, Ninetieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of hostilities with the Army of the Cumberland, participating in all of its battles save that of Perryville, Kentucky. He made a most creditable record by his loyalty, bravery and fidelity, at all times bearing his full part in the work of preserving the Union.

When the war was over Mr. Willis returned to Ohio, where he remained until 1873 and then came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, securing a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres near Marquette. The first time he visited Aurora there were but two houses in the town and a little box store and post office, also a sod blacksmith shop. His own home was a sod house with dirt floor and sod and dirt roof. In this he lived for twelve years while gaining a start in his new

home, meeting many of the hardships and privations of pioneer life. Year after year he carried on the work of tilling the soil and cultivating the crops best adapted to climatic conditions here and as the years passed he gathered good harvests and thus promoted his annual income. As the country became settled and railroads were built he found a good market for his farm products and won a substantial measure of success in the cultivation of his fields. He lived on his old homestead until 1902 when he sold it and bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Grant precinct on which he never lived. In 1902 he and his wife removed to Aurora and they now occupy a nice home at 1317 Twelfth street.

It was on the 1st of March, 1866, that Mr. Willis was married to Miss Lydia J. Hixson, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Griffith and Sarah (Arganbright) Hixson, both of whom were natives of Ohio, where their entire lives were passed. They had a family of five children, four of whom are living, Mrs. Willis being the eldest, while the others are: P. G. Hixson, a retired farmer living in Aurora; David, residing in Marquette; and William Hixson, who makes his home at Imperial, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Willis became parents of eleven children, six of whom are living: Clara, the wife of John L. Beck, a farmer of Scotia, Nebraska; Stephen H., who follows farming near Mullen, Nebraska; Lucy, the wife of John Lord, a shoemaker of Aurora; Belle, the wife of Thomas Johnson, a thresher living in Aurora; P. D., a clothing merchant of Grand Island; and Walter C., who conducts a news stand in Aurora.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis are consistent members of the United Brethren church and his political support is given to the republican party. He also proudly wears the little bronze button that proclaims him a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and in matters of citizenship he has always been as true and loyal to his country as when he followed the nation's starry banner on the battle fields of the south.

C. R. SCOVILL

C. R. Scovill, who is extensively engaged in the produce business in Aurora, was born July 22, 1884, in the city which is still his home, a son of Daniel A. Scovill, mentioned on another page of this work. He obtained his education in the Aurora schools and started out in the business world as an employe in a laundry, working six months in that connection. He then began driving a wagon for an express company and in August, 1901, turned his attention to the produce business as an employe of Baschlin & Schumann. He continued with that firm until the death of Mr. Baschlin, after which he purchased the business in which he has since engaged. He now ships poultry in car-lots to New York and eggs in car-lots to the Chicago market. His business has thus become one of extensive proportions and is today one of the profitable commercial enterprises of Aurora.

On the 14th of May, 1908, Mr. Scovill was married to Miss Irma Richardson, who was born in Kassin, Minnesota, a daughter of Fred W. Richardson who became a resident of Aurora in 1890 and was employed as a railroad conductor. Mr. and Mrs. Scovill have become parents of two children: Claude R. and Lois M., aged, respectively, eleven and seven years. The parents are well known socially and

the hospitality of the best homes of Aurora is cordially extended them. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Scovill is a stalwart republican in politics. He has served as a member of the city council, is a member of the Rotary Club and is interested in all that has to do with progress and upbuilding in his native county. His works as a man and citizen are widely acknowledged.

W. J. TURNER

W. J. Turner is now living retired in Harvard but has lived a busy, useful and active life, so that the rest which he is now enjoying is well deserved. He was born November 2, 1849, in Ogle county, Illinois, and is a son of Thomas E. and Martha (Pier) Turner, the former a native of Connecticut, while the latter was born in the state of New York. Thomas E. Turner, the grandfather in the paternal line, was also a native of Connecticut and a member of one of the old New England families founded in America in early colonial days and represented in the Continental forces in the Revolutionary war. In the maternal line W. J. Turner is also descended from ancestry who served in the war for independence. His mother's grandfather was Samuel Huntington, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and the ancestral line is one of which the present generation has every reason to be proud. The marriage of Thomas E. Turner and Martha Pier was celebrated in Otsego county, New York, and in 1848 they removed to Illinois. He had been educated for the ministry at Andover, Massachusetts, but never took up the active work of preaching and instead turned his attention to the profession of teaching, which he followed for a time in Illinois. He afterward removed to Iowa and there purchased land, devoting his attention to agricultural pursuits. Both he and his wife passed away in that state. They had a family of five children, of whom two are living, W. J. and Scott, the latter a resident of Minnesota. The father departed this life January 3, 1861, and was long survived by his widow, who died in 1898 in the faith of the Congregational church, of which she had for many years been a consistent member.

W. J. Turner pursued his education in the typical little red schoolhouse of Iowa and after reaching man's estate he homesteaded near Harvard, Nebraska, in 1871. He then lived upon his property until he met the requirements of the law whereby he secured title to the land, after which he removed to Harvard and was employed in various ways. In 1876 he turned his attention to the grain trade and continued his dealings along that line until he retired from business in 1886. He also conducted a farm for a number of years and in addition to cultivating the crops best adapted to soil and climate he likewise engaged in stock raising. As his financial resources increased he made investment in property and is today the owner of considerable land. Not all days in his business career have been equally bright. In fact he has seen the storm clouds gathering that threatened disaster, but in the course of years his persistency and energy overcame all difficulties. His capital was quite limited when he removed to Nebraska and he sold his home in order to get money to engage in the grain business. He began operating in a warehouse in 1880 and built an elevator which was destroyed by fire in 1881, thus causing the

loss of the greater part of his capital. Notwithstanding, however, he summoned courage and energy to the front and made a new start, and as the years have passed his persistency of purpose and capable management have won him a place among the substantial residents of Clay county.

It was in 1896 that Mr. Turner was united in marriage to Miss Eva Hjelm, a native of Sweden, and to them has been born a daughter, Eva, who is now a student in Doane College at Crete, Nebraska. Mrs. Turner is a member of the Congregational church. Mr. Turner is an exemplary representative of the Masonic order and is a past master of his lodge. In politics he is a republican and was elected the first mayor of Harvard, while previous to this time he served on the village board. He is today one of the honored pioneer residents of this section of the state. He was living in Harvard during the memorable Easter storm of April, 1873, and his first home in Clay county was a sod house, which was situated on government land that he secured when he came to the present site of Harvard. He is today the oldest inhabitant of the town and has therefore witnessed its entire growth and development, while at all times he has lent his aid and cooperation to all measures for the general good. There have been few spectacular phases in his career, but his persistency of purpose, intelligently directed, his unfaltering industry and his thorough reliability have brought him to a creditable place in business circles and enabled him to acquire the competence that now permits him to rest from further labor and enjoy the fruits of his former toil.

ANDREW J. PETERSON

Andrew J. Peterson has the distinction of being the first white boy born in Lewis precinct, Clay county, his birth having occurred on his father's homestead on the 15th of September, 1871. His father was A. D. Peterson and his mother Johanna Pearson, both natives of Sweden, who came to the United States in 1869 and first settled in Red Oak, Iowa. There the father engaged in railroad work until the road was put through to Lincoln, Nebraska, when he followed the road and took up a homestead in Clay county in the early seventies. He secured eighty acres and hired a man with an ox team to bring out his goods from Lincoln. For several years A. D. Peterson made his home in a dugout but later erected a frame house. He was a very successful farmer and at the time of his death in 1899 owned five hundred and sixty acres of land. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Peterson five children were born: Charles of Omaha; Andrew J., whose name initiates this review; Albert of Lincoln; Oscar, who is farming the old home place; and Ellen Edlar, who is residing in California.

Andrew J. Peterson received his education in his native county and after putting his textbooks aside engaged in farming. He is now cultivating a quarter section of land in Clay county, a continental roadside farm, and follows general farming.

In 1898 Mr. Peterson was united in marriage to Miss Alma Anderson, also a native of Clay county and they have become parents of six children: Ruth, Carl, Ethel, Dorothy, Eva, and Harold, all at home.

Mr. Peterson, like his father, has become well known in the agricultural circles

of the county as a progressive and successful farmer and his farm is modern in every respect. He is indeed a representative citizen of the county and one of whom any community would be proud.

MYRON J. PETERSON

One of the pioneer residents of Hamilton county, Nebraska, is Myron J. Peterson who is now making his home in Aurora. There are few of the old pioneers who have been more successful than he and he is now enjoying a retired life after the many experiences and hardships of his early years.

Nebraska may claim Mr. Peterson only as her adopted son, for he was born in Lee county, Illinois, on the 11th of April, 1844, a son of Jonathan and Precious (Avery) Peterson. His father was born in Truxton, New York, and the mother in Hartford, Connecticut, their marriage having taken place in the former state. About 1837 Jonathan Peterson removed to Lee county, Illinois, where he preempted land from the government upon which both he and his wife resided until their deaths. Jonathan Peterson was a well read and highly intellectual man and his prominence and prosperity made him a forceful man in the community. In politics he was a stanch republican and always active in the interests of that party and was also prominent in church circles, being a consistent member of the Baptist church. For many years he served as supervisor of his township. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Peterson five children were born, two of whom are now living, namely: Myron J., the subject of this review; and Walter A., who was for many years a prominent livery man of Green Lake, Wisconsin, but who is now retired. The paternal grandfather of Myron J. Peterson, Jonathan Peterson, was born in New York state and the maternal grandfather Avery was a native of England.

Myron J. Peterson received a limited education in Illinois, attending the common schools and later entering the State Normal School at Normal. When but eighteen years of age he put his textbooks aside and entered the Union army, enlisting in Company E, Seventy-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was in active service in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama, and participated in the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, in which he was shot through the leg, the wound being of such a nature as to place him in the hospital for six months. At the termination of this time he again joined his regiment and fought in the following battles: Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missouri Ridge, Ringgold, Rocky Face Gap, Tunnel Hill, Resaca, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Franklin, and Nashville. On the 27th of June, 1865, he was discharged from service and returned to Illinois where he engaged in farming until 1873, when he came to Nebraska and settled in Hamilton county. Here he acquired a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres whereon he built a one-room frame house. He had practically nothing to back him except a horse team and a grim determination to win out. The first year he did not raise a crop and the second year the greater part of his crop was destroyed by grasshoppers. His first years on the homestead were full of discouragement, for he passed through all the various droughts especially the hot winds and drought of 1894. Hunting was plentiful,

there being many antelopes, a few deer, and numerous coyotes, and many Indians passed through his place in the fall and spring on their hunting trips. Mr. Peterson specialized in grain for the most part and as the result of his persistency of purpose and forceful energy soon became known as one of the best farmers in his vicinity. He now owns three hundred and sixty acres of well improved and highly cultivated land. In 1911 he decided to retire from active farm life and removed to Aurora where he purchased a fine home at 1311 Twelfth street.

Mr. Peterson has been twice married. In 1869 he was wedded to Miss Melintha Robinson, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Alex and Sarah (Avery) Robinson. Her parents were among the early pioneers of Illinois and spent the remainder of their days in that state, where they were respected and representative citizens. To Mr. and Mrs. Peterson three children were born, one of whom is living: Arthur J., who resides on his father's farm south of Phillips. He is married and has three children: Herbert Jonathan, Gladys, and Nellie. On the 19th of April, 1917, Mr. Peterson was again wed, Dora Adell Smith of Knoxville, Illinois, becoming his wife. She was a daughter of Chauncey B. and Adeline E. (Butler) Smith, the former a native of New York, while the latter was born in Pennsylvania. At an early day they removed to Illinois where they resided until they passed away. Mrs. Peterson had previously been married to Cornelius Wilson, by whom she had two children, only one child living—Lena R., who is the wife of a Mr. Ball and is residing near Wood River, Hall county.

Mr. Peterson has never given his support to any particular political party but has always been a strong prohibitionist. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church, while his wife is a consistent member of the Presbyterian church. Fraternally he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and has been commander of his post. As a prominent and progressive farmer Mr. Peterson has been an active force in the community and has the distinction of being the first justice of the peace in his section of the county. In church affairs he has always taken a prominent part and was superintendent of the Sunday school for a number of years. Since leading a retired life Mr. Peterson has taken his wife on trips every winter, either to California or Mississippi or other winter resorts of note.

During his life Mr. Peterson has seen the county wherein he now resides grow from a wild and uncultivated state to a county of flourishing towns and comfortable homes. He is still hale and hearty at the age of seventy-seven years and is widely recognized as a representative citizen of Aurora and Hamilton county.

ABRAHAM W. POTTS

As a young man Abraham W. Potts gave long and effective service as a soldier of the Union in the Civil war and in times of peace his loyalty and self-reliant spirit have been equally in evidence. These qualities came effectively into play in his endurance of the responsibilities and trials of pioneer life in Nebraska and today he is one of the venerable and honored pioneer citizens of Hamilton county, where he is living in peace and prosperity, with an attractive home in the village of Stockham and with inviolable place in popular esteem.

Mr. Potts was born in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, on the 27th of September, 1841, and is a son of George and Susan (Bigler) Potts, both natives of Pennsylvania. The father became a prosperous farmer in Ohio, but passed away when his son Abraham was but two years of age.

In addition to receiving the advantages of the rural schools Abraham W. Potts prosecuted his studies for a time in Elder's Ridge Academy, in Indiana county, Pennsylvania. He was not yet twenty years of age when the Civil war was precipitated on the nation, but his youthful patriotism was promptly shown by his response to the first call for volunteers. Thus it was that early in the year 1861 he enlisted in Company G, Twenty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for a term of three years, this having been the fifth regiment for three-year service to be organized in and sent to the front from Ohio. At the expiration of his term Mr. Potts re-enlisted, this time as a member of Company G, Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry and thus his service covered virtually the entire period of the war. At Rockford, Missouri, Mr. Potts was captured by the enemy, but was shortly afterward paroled. He participated in many of the important engagements marking the progress of the great conflict, including the battle of Shiloh, the siege of Vicksburg, the battles of Port Gibson, Champion Hill, Mansfield, Pleasant Hill and Cain River and the Red River expedition. After the capture of Vicksburg he accompanied his regiment to the Gulf of Mexico, with General Grant's original Thirteenth Corps and was mustered out at New Orleans, Louisiana, in May, 1866, his honorable discharge having been granted him at Columbus, Ohio. In the Buckeye state he purchased land and engaged in farming and there also he devoted six years to work at the carpenter's and engineering trade. He continued his residence in Ohio until 1872, when, with an equipment of two teams and two covered wagons, he set forth to initiate his pioneer experience in Hamilton county, Nebraska. The overland journey was completed in six weeks and upon his arrival he entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, in Beaver township. The virgin prairie soil challenged his most vigorous efforts, but it was necessary first to provide a home for his family. His skill as a carpenter came into play at this juncture, for he hauled lumber from Sutton and erected on his land a small frame house, the first stable having been of the straw type common to the locality and period. He broke his land and made it available for crop production, besides which he planted a grove of trees and also a large orchard. While he suffered his share of loss through drouth and grasshoppers, the passing years rewarded his labors with ever increasing prosperity and eventually he became the owner of a valuable farm property of three hundred and sixty acres. In the early days he obtained fuel from trees along a neighboring creek and took his grain to Beaver Crossing to be ground, this trip requiring three days. Wild game was still in evidence and Mr. Potts reverts with satisfaction to the fact that his trusty rifle brought down one deer before these animals had entirely disappeared from this part of the state. He made the best of improvements on his farm, which he fenced at an earlier day than did the average settler, and here he continued his successful farm enterprise until 1893, when he retired from the farm. Four years later he removed to Kansas, where he remained eleven years and upon his return to Hamilton county he established his home at Stockham, where he has since lived retired. In the historic Easter blizzard of the early days Mr. Potts was

caught in the storm while driving across country, but he managed to find the home of another settler, where he received shelter for himself and his team and there remained snowbound for three days. Mr. Potts has ever stood ready to lend his influence and aid in the furtherance of measures projected for the general good of the community, but has had no desire for public office. In politics he maintains an independent attitude and in a fraternal way he is affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic.

In Ohio was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Potts to Miss Ruhama Sykes, who was born and reared in that state and who died in 1876, at the age of thirty-two years. Of the children of this union two are living: Minerva is the wife of Milton Wirts, of Great Falls, Montana; and Hattie is the widow of George Rogers and resides at Stockham, Nebraska. The second marriage of Mr. Potts was with Miss Harriet White, who has been his true helpmeet and devoted companion and who has become the mother of two children, the elder of whom, Luella, is the wife of Edward Swanson of Burley, Idaho; and the younger, Edna, is the wife of J. H. Dann, of Omaha, Nebraska.

HERMAN BREITENFELDT

Herman Breitenfeldt, a sterling citizen and representative farmer of Hamilton county, was reared and educated in Germany, where he was born in the year 1848, and he was an ambitious and self-reliant youth of eighteen years when he left his native land and voyaged across the Atlantic to the United States, the trip having been made on a sailing vessel and seven weeks and three days having passed ere he landed on the shores of the United States. From the national metropolis he soon made his way to Wisconsin, where he found employment and later removed to Minnesota. It was from the latter state that he came to Nebraska in 1874 and numbered himself among the pioneer settlers of Hamilton county. Here he bought for five dollars per acre a tract of eighty acres of unbroken prairie land, and in the sod house which he constructed on this embryonic farm he and his wife and their one child found shelter. They endured the hardships entailed by loss of crops through grasshoppers and droughts, bravely met the deprivations which the isolated location and primitive surroundings entailed in the early pioneer days, labored earnestly and indefatigably to develop and improve their land, and in due time generous rewards came to them, as shown in the fact that today Mr. Breitenfeldt is the owner of a well improved landed estate of one thousand acres and is one of the leading exponents of agricultural and live stock industry in Hamilton county, where he and his wife are honored pioneers whose circle of friends is limited only by that of their acquaintances. The religious faith of the family is that of the Lutheran church.

As a young man Mr. Breitenfeldt married Miss Bertha Hipka, and of the ten children of this union six are deceased; Cora is the wife of Frank Keller; Ida is the wife of August Hoppell; and Frank and Edward have assumed much of the active work and management of their father's extensive farm property. On the original tract which he obtained when he first came to the county Mr. Breitenfeldt



HERMAN BREITENFELDT

has maintained his home during the intervening years and the fine buildings and other permanent improvements mark this as one of the model farms of Scoville township, where it is situated in section 9, the home receiving service on one of the rural mail routes from the village of Doniphan.

S. E. HEINZMAN

Prominent in the agricultural circles of Hamilton county, Nebraska, is S. E. Heinzman, who is a native of this state in which his birth occurred at Friend on the 9th of April, 1889, a son of Fred and Cora (Wintermute) Heinzman, the former a native of Illinois and the latter a native of Iowa. About 1882 or 1883 Fred Heinzman came to Nebraska and purchased eighty acres of railroad land upon which he erected a small frame house. There he resided until he removed to York county where the death of his wife occurred. In 1903 he came to Hamilton county, where he bought a half section of land and put many good improvements on the place. Some time later he retired from active farm life and moved to Long Beach, California, where he lives with two daughters, Winona and Wilma. He is a stanch supporter of the democratic party and both he and daughters are consistent members of the Christian church.

S. E. Heinzman received a good common school education and in due time entered the York Business College where he completed a commercial course in the required time. After putting his textbooks aside he started working on the farms of the vicinity by the month and later determining to engage in farming on his own account, rented some land near Friend on which he remained five years. He then moved onto his father's old farm in Hamilton county, consisting of four hundred acres of fine improved land and there he is now residing doing general farming, raising a good grade of live stock and feeding the markets.

In 1911 occurred the marriage of Mr. Heinzman and Miss Maude E. Gish, a native of Kansas. To this union three children have been born: Doris and Beatrice, both at home and Dale, a son.

Fraternally Mr. Heinzman is a member of the Masons in which order he has reached the fourteenth degree and he is likewise a member of the Eastern Star of which his wife is also a member. Having lived in Nebraska during his entire life Mr. Heinzman has made many friends who appreciate his true personal worth and many sterling traits of character. In agricultural circles he takes an important part and is recognized as one of the most successful and progressive ranchmen in Hamilton county.

EDWARD SCHUCK

Edward Schuck, who since 1918 has been engaged in the lumber and coal business in Harvard and who is prominently connected with public affairs of the community, was born near Inland, Nebraska, October 11, 1886, a son of Charles and Augusta J. (Fitzke) Schuck, both of whom were natives of Germany. Coming to

America in early life, however, they were married in Clay county, Nebraska, where they had made their home from childhood. The father purchased railroad land and transformed it into a rich and productive farm, which he continued to make his home until his demise. His widow has since taken up her abode in Harvard, where she now resides. Mr. Schuck was the owner of a half section of valuable and productive land, notwithstanding the fact that he started out in the business world empty-handed—a fact which indicates the splendid opportunities America offers to her native sons and those of her adoption. He was in the county from early pioneer times, residing here during the memorable Easter storm of 1873, when a great blizzard raged and snow lay upon the ground to the depth of more than a foot. In community affairs Mr. Schuck took a helpful interest and was a stalwart advocate of democratic principles. He filled the office of county supervisor in an early day and was also at one time town assessor. Fraternally he was connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and belonged to the German Congregational church.

Edward Schuck, whose name introduces this review, was the fifth in order of birth in a family of ten children. His early educational opportunities were supplemented by study in the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and also in Hastings College. When his textbooks were put aside he concentrated his efforts and attention upon the work of the home farm and for a time was also engaged in the lumber business in Colorado. He likewise established a lumber-yard at Milford on his own account in 1915. He first took up his abode in Harvard in 1905 and in 1918 became identified with its commercial interests as a dealer in lumber and coal. He sells all kinds of building materials and has built up a very gratifying patronage, developing his business in a most progressive way, so that substantial results accrue.

In 1915 Mr. Schuck was married to Miss Mabel E. Swake, a native of Lincoln, Nebraska, and to them have been born two children: Lorraine Louise, four years of age; and Edward, Jr., a little lad of two summers. The parents have membership in the Methodist Episcopal church at Lincoln and Mr. Schuck is a Scottish Rite Mason and member of the Mystic Shrine. In politics he maintains an independent course, preferring to remain free to support men and measures without regard to party affiliations. He is now serving as a member of the city board of Harvard, as a member of the school board and on the executive board of the Community Club. He is likewise justice of the peace and in that office renders decisions which are strictly fair and impartial. His cooperation at all times is given to projects that are worthy the support of fair-minded and progressive citizens.

DAVID PICKARD

A pioneer settler of Clay county is David Pickard, who is now residing in Sutton, retired, at the age of eighty-nine years. A native of New York state, his birth occurred there January 28, 1832, a son of Jacob and Sybil (Lewis) Pickard, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Massachusetts. Their marriage occurred in New York and in that state they resided until death. Seven children

were born to that union, David, whose name initiates this review, being the only one living.

David Pickard obtained his education in the state of New York and in 1857 removed to Illinois. In 1862 he entered the Union army from that state, enlisting in Company K, Ninety-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He participated in many of the important battles of the war and was captured at Guntown, Mississippi, and sent as a prisoner to Alabama. After the war he returned to Illinois and worked at the carpenter trade there until 1878, when he came to Clay county. He was then employed at farm work for some ten or twelve years, saving up enough to purchase eighty acres of railroad land in Fillmore county, upon which he built a small frame house. For twelve years he resided on this land and in 1891 removed to Sutton, where he again followed his trade as carpenter. He continued in that line of business until he was seventy-five years of age and then retired. Since coming to Clay county he has made many and stanch friends and he is readily acknowledged a representative citizen of Sutton.

In 1867 Mr. Pickard was married to Miss Elnora Stockwell, their marriage taking place in Illinois. To them two children were born: Marines, who is engaged in the carpenter business in Sutton; and William, who is employed at the cement works in Sutton. Mrs. Pickard passed away in 1886, her death coming as a severe shock to her many friends.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Pickard the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the republican party, in the interests of which he has taken an active part. His religious faith is that of the Methodist church, while his wife was a consistent member of the Christian church. Fraternally he is an Ancient Free and Accepted Mason and a Royal Arch Mason, being past master and past high priest. Mr. Pickard owns his property in Sutton and as a result of industry and energy of former years is enabled to enjoy a well earned rest without further recourse to labor. He is a member of the G. A. R., George E. Meade Post, of Sutton.

DANIEL A. SCOVILL

When on the 4th of April, 1903, Daniel A. Scovill passed away death removed one of the valued, substantial and honored citizens of Hamilton county. In many ways he had been associated with the development and progress of this section of the state. He had aided in framing the laws of Nebraska as a member of the general assembly, had been commandant of the soldier's home and had been connected with various business interests. His birth occurred in Stephenson county, Illinois, near Freeport, June 6, 1841, his parents being Herman R. and Julia A. (Rogers) Scovill, both of whom were born near Catskill, New York. The father was a son of Amasa Scovill, a soldier of the war of 1812 who enlisted from the state of New York. His father was a native of France and came to the new world with Marquis de Lafayette, serving under that distinguished French general in the war for American independence. He determined to remain in the new world and afterward settled on a farm near Catskill, New York, where he spent his remaining days. The name was originally DeScovill and the family was

noted for longevity. In the maternal line Daniel A. Scovill was a descendant from one of the old families of New England. His mother, who in her maidenhood was Julia A. Rogers, was a native of the Empire state and a daughter of Daniel Rogers who was born in New Hampshire and whose family was founded in the new world prior to the Revolutionary war. It was about 1839 that Herman B. Scovill with his wife and daughter removed to what was then the far west, taking up their abode on a farm near Freeport, Illinois.

On the old homestead in Stephenson county D. A. Scovill was reared, early becoming acquainted with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. Following the outbreak of the Civil war, however, he put aside all business and personal considerations and joined the army, feeling that his first duty was to his country. It was in September, 1861, that he became one of the boys in blue of Company A, Forty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, rendering valuable and honorable service to his country until March 28, 1866, when he returned to his Illinois home with a most creditable military record. He was wounded twice while in the service, sustaining a gunshot wound in the leg while participating in the battle of Shiloh and at Champion Hill his ankle was broken by a fragment of shell. During the entire period of the war he was absent from active duty for only three months, which was spent in the Field Hospital in front of Vicksburg. He joined the army as a private and became first sergeant. He participated in the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, the second battle of Iuka, the second battle of Corinth, Champion Hill, the siege and capture of Vicksburg, the battle of Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Nashville, Spanish Fort, Fort Blakely and Mobile.

It was after his return from the army that Mr. Scovill in 1868 became a student in Mount Morris Seminary where he spent two collegiate years and the following year came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, settling in the precinct which now bears his name. He was one of the first of the pioneer residents of the district and there took up the occupation of farming. In 1875 he removed to Aurora and served for a time as deputy sheriff. In 1876 he was elected county sheriff and filled the position for two years. For a time he was engaged in the implement business and later took up the study of law and was admitted to the bar, after which he continued in the practice of his profession until his death.

At various periods Mr. Scovill was called upon to serve in public office. He filled the position of state senator for two years and in 1889 was elected to represent his district in the lower house of the general assembly. Throughout these periods he gave most careful consideration to the vital questions which came up for settlement and left the impress of his individuality for good upon the legislative record of the state.

Mr. Scovill was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Wheeler, a native of New York, and they became the parents of eight children, six of whom are living: Edith, the wife of C. F. Brown who is employed on the Union Pacific at Grand Island; Effie A., the wife of J. E. Lyle, county clerk of Hall county, and a resident of Grand Island; C. R., mentioned elsewhere in this work; Frank L., a teller in the Commercial Bank of Grand Island; Vera M., the wife of Henry Carlson, a farmer of Hamilton county; and Max L., who is a bank employe in Grand Island.

Mr. Scovill was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, guiding his life according to its teachings. He also belonged to Chandler Post, No. 34, G.

A. R., in which he held all the offices and became past commander. He was likewise commandant of the Soldiers' Home at Grand Island for two years. His political allegiance was at all times given to the republican party, for he was a very firm believer in its principles. He was a member of the old settlers' association and in many ways was connected with the interests of Hamilton county. His widow is still living, making her home in Grand Island at the age of sixty-eight years. The county acknowledges its indebtedness to Daniel A. Scovill in many ways. As one of the earliest settlers he aided in laying broad and deep the foundation upon which has been built the present progress and prosperity of the county. He aided in shaping the history of the state as one of its legislators and in various ways contributed to public improvement and advancement, so that his name should be placed high upon the roll of Nebraska's honored pioneers.

PETER HEDBLOM

Peter Hedblom was one of the pioneers of Hamilton county. He was born in Henninge, Skog county, Sweden, April 3, 1841, and had therefore attained the age of seventy-eight years when he passed away on April 1, 1919. He was educated in the common schools of his native country, there spending the period of his boyhood and youth.

When twenty-four years of age he came to the United States, landing in New York, August 6, 1865. He made his way to Illinois and shortly afterwards to Iowa, where for four years he was chiefly employed in railroad bridge construction. In April, 1869, he married Miss Maria S. Johnson. They established their first home on a farm near Dayton, Iowa, and seven of their nine children were born there. Those living are Mrs. L. F. Stowell; Mrs. Henry Olson; Ida, Emma, Selma, and Anna, who are living in or near Aurora; Carl A., of Rochester, Minnesota; and Edward, now living in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Attracted by the promise of greater opportunities further west he visited Hamilton county in 1879 and bought land there at that time not far from a country blacksmith shop, around which later grew the town of Marquette. In February, 1882, he came with his family and began to build a home and develop a farm. From that time he was actively identified with the farming interests of the community and state. Prospering as the years passed he became the owner of a half section of valuable land in Hamilton county, his farm being the visible evidence of well-directed energy and thrift.

In 1901 he retired from active farming and then came to Aurora, where he spent the remaining years of his life. He built a fine modern residence there and also acquired other city property. Being converted in 1867, he joined the Swedish Mission church in which he was an earnest, constructive worker. Nothing concerned him so vitally as the growth of the church and the extension of its influence. In politics he was a republican but was not a stand-patter when there was a question of individual worth. He believed in and worked for the principles of prohibition and was in every particular a loyal American citizen.

In a personal sense he was alert and progressive, a leader rather than a fol-

lower. He was ever a fearless, uncompromising, outspoken champion of truth as he saw it. He retained his mental and spiritual vigor in a remarkable degree to the last. His departure brought a sense of bereavement into many homes where his friendship was cherished.

ED HILLIGAS

It was no minor distinction that may be claimed by Ed Hilligas in connection with the annals of Hamilton county, for he is a native son of this county and a representative of one of its sterling pioneer families, his parents having here established their home nearly half a century ago, when this now opulent section of Nebraska was little more than a prairie wilderness.

Mr. Hilligas, who is now living retired in the village of Marquette but who still retains ownership of his valuable farm property, was born in Otis township, this county, on the 13th of July, 1880, and is a son of Francis M. and Barbara (Brown) Hilligas, natives respectively of Ohio and Indiana, who were married in Clay county, Indiana. Francis M. Hilligas was a boy at the time of his parents' removal to Indiana, where he was reared on a farm and received the advantages of the common schools. His parents passed the remainder of their lives in that state. The mother was born in Wurtemburg, Germany, and was a child when, in 1848, her parents immigrated to America and established their home in Indiana, the voyage across the Atlantic having been made on an old-time sailing vessel.

Francis M. Hilligas was one of the gallant young men who represented Indiana in the Union ranks in the Civil war. He enlisted in Company H, Eleventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which he served under General Sheridan in the historic Shenandoah campaign in Virginia, his service covering a period of eighteen months and continuing until the close of the war, when he received his honorable discharge. In later years he was actively affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Hilligas continued his alliance with farm enterprise in Indiana until 1873, when he came with his wife and three children to Nebraska and numbered himself among the pioneer settlers of Hamilton county. The overland journey, made with wagon and mule team, required twenty-two days, a ferry-boat transferring the family and its equipment across the Mississippi river at Keokuk, Iowa, and also across the Missouri river, at Nebraska City. Mr. Hilligas took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in the present precinct of Otis and in the little sod house which he there constructed he established his family and their small supply of household effects. He had brought with him to the county ten bushels of wheat and from this he planted his first crop and provided flour for the family larder. He was able to give to his primitive dwelling a shingled roof and a board floor, provisions lacking in many similar habitations of the locality and period. Mr. Hilligas vigorously carried forward the reclaiming and improving of his land, but in the second year of his residence here, 1874, grasshoppers destroyed his crops and brought a measure of hardship into the little prairie home. He planted a fine orchard and other trees on his farm and eventually made the place one of the best in the township at the time. Finally he left the farm and removed to Hampton, this county, where he conducted a hotel, and later owned and operated a grist mill at Marquette.

He returned to his farm in Otis township, but eventually established his home near Marquette and later erected a house in that village, which continued to be his place of abode until his death in 1915, at the age of sixty-eight years, his wife having passed away in the preceding year. Their prosperity in the later years fully compensated for the trials and labors which were theirs in the pioneer days. Mr. Hilligas took vital interest in the general welfare and advancement of the community and in politics gave his support to the democratic party. Of the four children the eldest is John, who is living retired, in the village of Hampton; Mary is the wife of John Bray, a farmer near Edinburg, Texas; Ellen is the wife of Louis Gion of Polk county, Nebraska; and the subject of this sketch is the youngest of the family.

Edward Hilligas is indebted to the public schools of Hamilton county for his early education and at the age of twenty-six years he initiated his independent career as a farmer. He purchased forty acres of land in Otis precinct and continued to make his farm the stage of vigorous and profitable agricultural and live stock enterprises until the spring of 1917, when he removed to Marquette, where he has since lived practically retired, he being a stockholder of the Hamilton County Elevator Company of this village and also of the Farmers Telephone Company. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party and he is a loyal and popular citizen of his native county.

On August 5, 1900, Mr. Hilligas was united in marriage to Miss Lena Satory, who was born in the state of Missouri, a daughter of Joseph and Julia (Adam) Satory, who came from that state and settled in York county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Hilligas have two children—Lottie and Ruby.

J. A. DOREMUS

J. A. Doremus, principal of the city schools of Aurora, and recognized as one of the able educators in connection with the public school system of the state, was born in Rantoul, Illinois, August, 1870, a son of Andrew and Mary Jane (Heward) Doremus, both of whom were natives of New Jersey, in which state they were reared and married. In 1869 they removed to Illinois, where they still make their home. The father has devoted his life to the ministry of the Presbyterian church and his labors have been a potent influence for moral progress in the various communities in which he has lived. He has now reached the notable age of eighty-five years, while his wife is seventy-six years of age and since 1906 Mr. Doremus has entertained superannuated relations to the church, having up to that time continued active in the ministry, covering a period of fifty-six years. His political endorsement was given to the republican party. To him and his wife were born three children of whom two are living, the younger being Robert Doremus, who is a minister of the Unitarian church. He was graduated from Beloit College of Wisconsin and afterward taught school at Rochester, New York. He became acquainted with Dr. Ganette, who was a leader among Unitarian people of the country. It was subsequent to this time that Robert Doremus entered Harvard

and was graduated in the theological course. He quit the preparatory course to enter the ministry and has since devoted his life to the work of the church.

J. A. Doremus had the advantage of liberal educational opportunities, supplementing his public school training by study in Gates College at Neligh, Nebraska, and in the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1897 with the Master of Arts degree. He then returned to Neligh, where he taught for five years and then went to Madison, Nebraska, where he became superintendent of schools, occupying that position for five years. Later he was located at Auburn, Nebraska, and during his superintendency of the public schools there for a period of eight years, contributed much to the development and improvement of the school systems. In 1917 he came to Aurora and for four years has been school superintendent in this city with an enrollment of eight hundred and forty-five pupils and thirty-one teachers housed in four school buildings. His methods are practical and progressive. He regards education as the preparation for life and realizing fully his responsibilities in this connection, is doing everything within his power to maintain the schools of Aurora at the highest possible standard.

In 1898 Mr. Doremus was married to Miss M. Belle Chellis, who was born in Meriden, New Hampshire, and was graduated from the Middlebury College of Middlebury, Vermont, after which she came west to teach school. To Mr. and Mrs. Doremus have been born five children: Harold, a student in the State University of Nebraska, who will graduate in 1921 from the civil engineering department; Francis, who is pursuing the electrical engineering course in the State University; Mary, a high school pupil; Mabel and Constant, who are pupils in the grades. Mr. Doremus is a member of the Knights of Pythias and gives his political allegiance to the republican party, keeping at all times well informed on the questions and issues of the day. Both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and they occupy an enviable position in those social circles where intelligence and true worth are accepted as passports to good society.

WILLIAM P. RHODES

Since 1883 William P. Rhodes has made his home near Springranch, in township 5, Range 8, where he is owner of an excellent farm property and is classed with the most enterprising and prosperous farmers of Clay county. He is a native of Missouri, his birth having occurred in Greene county, that state, on the 28th of April, 1853, a son of William J. and Sarah Martha (Cowden) Rhodes, the former a native of Illinois, where he was born in 1825, and the latter a Kentuckian by birth. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes was celebrated in McLean county, Illinois, and there they resided throughout life, the father being a well known and successful farmer of that community. W. J. Rhodes passed away in 1914. Eight children were born to that union, four of whom are living: W. P., whose name initiates this review; E. M., farming in McLean county, Illinois; James, a resident of McLean county, Illinois; and Mrs. Becker, a resident of Quincy, Illinois. W. J. Rhodes was a lifelong consistent member of the Christian church, as was also his wife, and he was



WILLIAM P. RHODES AND FAMILY

likewise a stanch prohibitionist. He was always active in the development and improvement of the community and served his fellowmen as county commissioner for some time. Three brothers of W. J. Rhodes, Aaron P., Taylor and John A., were veterans of the Civil war, having served gallantly throughout the conflict. The paternal grandfather of our subject, John H. Rhodes, was born in Maryland and was an early pioneer in both Ohio and Illinois, having reached the latter state in 1823. The maternal grandfather was Reeves Cowden, a Kentuckian by birth, who removed to Illinois at an early day.

W. P. Rhodes is indebted to the schools of Bloomington, Illinois, for his education and in early life engaged in farming. In 1877 he located in Adams county, Nebraska, purchased some land and started farming on his own account. For six years he lived in a sod house on this land and brought it to a highly cultivated state. In 1883 he removed to Clay county and purchased a half section of land on which he now resides. The land is highly cultivated and well improved, all of the outbuildings having been erected by Mr. Rhodes.

In 1897 occurred the marriage of Mr. Rhodes to Miss Laura A. Johnson, a native of McLean county, Illinois. They adopted one child, Russell D., who lives at home, and also reared a girl, Velma Burt, who is the wife of Jacob Johnson and resides near Mr. Rhodes.

In politics Mr. Rhodes maintains an independent course. He has never sought nor desired public preferment, but devotes his entire time to his agricultural interests. The religious faith of the family is that of the Christian church. At one time Mr. Rhodes specialized in stock raising, but he now does mostly general farming. He owns three hundred and twenty acres of land, the result of his own determined effort, and is recognized as one of the leading agriculturists of his section of the state.

FRED C. HOFFMAN

One of the successful and progressive agriculturists and business men of Harvard is Fred C. Hoffman, who is now connected with the Farmers' Elevator at that place. A native of Germany he was born in that country on the 25th of September, 1866, a son of Christian and Louise (Tietz) Hoffman, who were also natives of Germany. On the 26th of April, 1880, Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman and their family came to the United States and settled in Clay county. As the father had practically nothing upon his arrival in the county he obtained employment working out on farms and soon saved up enough to purchase some land in Clay county. He was successful in his farming ventures and is now residing retired in Norfolk, enjoying the fruits of a life of diligence and industry. Mrs. Hoffman passed away some years ago. Eight children were born to their union, of whom Fred C., our subject, was the second in order of birth. He was a consistent member of the Lutheran church, but is now identified with the Methodist Episcopal church and is a democrat in politics.

Fred C. Hoffman received his education in the public schools of his native land and came to this country with his parents when fourteen years of age. He worked

out on farms in Clay county until he became of age and for seven years was in the employment of one man. In 1912, however, he removed to the Harvard city limits, where he purchased some land and thereon resided until 1920, when he disposed of the land and moved into Harvard. There he built a fine home and subsequently became connected with the Farmers' Elevator there, which line of work he in now following. Mr. Hoffman while residing in the country was a member of the National Guard, in 1890 and 1891, and participated in some of the Sioux Indian campaigns.

In 1894 Mr. Hoffman was united in marriage to Miss Ruth Bish, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Nick Bish, who was a well known farmer in that state, where his death occurred. They have become the parents of two children: Walter and Edna. Walter, who is now twenty-four years of age, is assistant teacher in the University of Minnesota. He graduated from the Harvard schools and receiving a scholarship entered Wesleyan from which he was graduated and received his A. B. degree and won his Bachelor's degree in the spring of 1921; Edna received her education in the Harvard schools, after which she taught for three years there and is now teaching in Tobias.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Hoffman the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party, having firm belief in the principles of that party as factors in good government. Fraternally he is an Ancient Free and Accepted Mason. In the civic affairs of the county Mr. Hoffman has always taken a prominent part, having served as road overseer for some time and as school director in the country schools for a period of fourteen years. He was also for six years secretary of the board of school directors of Harvard and for seven years served his fellowmen in the office of township assessor and was elected on the city council in the spring of 1921. Mr. Hoffman in addition to his property in Harvard owns two hundred and twenty acres of improved land in Clay county. In both business and social circles Mr. Hoffman holds to high standards and enjoys in large measure the confidence and trust of those with whom he is brought into contact in every relation of life.

EMIL LINDGREN

Emil Lindgren who is farming in section 9, Lewis township, was born in Sweden on the 1st of July, 1871, a son of Frank and Caroline Lindgren. In 1879 the parents removed to the United States and located in Indiana, where they remained for but one year when they removed to Clay county, arriving there in February of that year. There the father secured a homestead and for five years lived in a dugout. He was a successful farmer, later built a frame house on the place which he otherwise improved, and at the time of his death, January 9, 1895, he was among the influential farmers of his portion of the county. Mrs. Lindgren is still living and makes her home with Emil on the old farm. They were the parents of four children: Emil, whose name initiates this review; Albion, whose death occurred at the age of thirty-four years; Victor, who passed away at the age of six years; and Theodore, a veterinary surgeon of Edgar.

Emil Lindgren received part of his education in the country schools of Clay

county. He had had some experience in working out on farms in Indiana, and obtained like work in Nebraska and soon saved up enough money to purchase eighty acres of good land. He was successful in his farming venture from the start and later bought an additional eighty acre tract adjoining the original one. He also owned some well improved land in Adams county at one time. Emil is now, however, residing with his mother on the old home place. He never married.

The life of Mr. Lindgren has been one of diligence and industry and he has won success solely through his own efforts. He has always taken an active part in the development and improvement of the community and is numbered among the representative citizens of Clay county.

L. G. KEMPSTER

Since 1888 L. G. Kempster has been agent for the Northwestern Railroad at Harvard and is one of the three men west of the Missouri river who retains the office in which the Northwestern placed him when the station was established. He was born in Baldwinsville, New York, on the 16th of August, 1863, a son of Thomas L. and Emma (Buston) Kempster, both of whom were born in London, England. Mr. and Mrs. Kempster came to the United States about 1849 and their marriage was celebrated in New York state. He traveled considerably, being a government contractor and he did extensive business along that line in Canada. He finally removed to Washington state and his death occurred in Seattle. Mrs. Kempster passed away in Oswego, New York, in 1866. Mr. Kempster was twice married and L. G., whose name initiates this review, was the only child born to the first union. Four children were born to the second marriage, two of whom are living: Mrs. Elkins, whose husband is a banker in Seattle, Washington; and Arthur, who is an electrician and is also residing in Seattle. He was general manager of the Seattle Traction Company when it sold out to the city. Thomas L. Kempster was a stanch supporter of the republican party and a consistent member of the Episcopal church.

L. G. Kempster received the greater part of his education in Chicago, where his father was engaged in the contracting and building business for some time. At the age of sixteen years L. G. Kempster put his school books aside and began to study telegraphy. For one year he was employed as telegraph operator for the St. Paul Railroad, but in 1888 came to Harvard and took charge of the station there for the Northwestern Railroad. He is one of the three men west of the Missouri river to open an office for the Northwestern who still retains it.

In 1885 Mr. Kempster was married to Miss Margaret McGrane, who was born in Chicago, Illinois, and to them seven children were born: George, whose death occurred at the age of two years; Edward L., who is manager of the Omaha Robe and Tanning Company; Charlotte M., now the wife of Arthur Dixon, who is a painter and decorator of Harvard; Harold G., who is with the National Fur and Tanning Company of Omaha; Leo R., who died at the age of twenty-three years; Lawrence, at home; and Keitha M., who is the wife of Lester W. Moon, a business man of Loveland, Colorado.

The political allegiance of Mr. Kempster is given to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. His fraternal affiliations are with the Knights of Columbus and his religious faith is that of the Catholic church. He has served on the town board of Harvard and was a member of that organization when the water works was built. Mr. Kempster owns a quarter section of land in Clay county and has a nice home in Harvard. He is a most estimable citizen and his long residence in the community with which he has been so prominently identified has served to make him widely known, while his upright character, business ability and genial temperament have gained for him the high esteem of the entire community.

CHARLES E. DE MARANVILLE

Charles E. De Maranville, a retired farmer of Aurora, was born in the state of New York in 1849, his parents being James and Sophia (Brown) De Maranville who were also natives of the Empire state where they were reared and married. About the year 1856 they removed westward and the father cultivated a rented farm in Illinois. His first wife died in that state and he afterward married Mrs. Walker. He continued to reside in Illinois until 1905 and then came to Nebraska, spending his remaining days in the homes of his children. He was a member of the Freewill Baptist church in early life and later united with the Methodist church, living at all times as a consistent Christian, doing everything in his power to promote moral progress. He belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and his political support was given to the republican party. He deserved much credit for what he accomplished in a business way for he started out in life empty handed and cultivated rented land, but through industry and diligence acquired sufficient capital to purchase a farm and in due course of time became one of the prosperous farmers of his community. His family numbered seven children, of whom four are living: Mrs. Josephine Buchanan, a resident of Bellingham, Washington; Charles E. of this review; Mrs. Jennie Stone, a widow living at Leavenworth, Kansas; and James, living at Ravenna, Nebraska.

In the schools of Mineral, Illinois, Charles E. De Maranville pursued his education and then took up the occupation of farming by renting land in that state. In 1878 he arrived in Hamilton county where he purchased eighty acres of railroad land and thereon built a sod house in which he lived for four years. On the expiration of that period he replaced this primitive pioneer dwelling by a frame building and continued the work of developing and improving his farm for many years. In 1879 he brought his family to Nebraska and through the intervening period has continued a resident of this state. He still owns the farm and also has two pieces of city property. In 1904 he removed to Aurora and worked at various things from time to time but is largely retired, having now passed the seventy-second milestone on life's journey.

It was in 1872 that Mr. De Maranville was united in marriage to Miss Clara Kinkead, who was born in Scott county, Iowa, and they became parents of five children: Fred, who is on the home farm in Hamilton county; Jessie, the wife of

Corwin Squiers who is employed by the Manhattan Oil Company in Aurora; Grace, the wife of Clarence McLaughlin, a farmer of Loop City, Nebraska; Carl, who works for the Consolidated Flour Company of Ravenna, Nebraska; and Minnie, the wife of Clarence Stokesbury, who resides on a farm near Aurora. The wife and mother passed away August 13, 1920. She had five children and twelve grandchildren and was the first of the family to be called to her final rest. She was a consistent member of the Christian church and the sterling worth of her character endeared her to all who knew her. Mr. De Maranville is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, also of the Highlanders and his political views are in accord with the teachings and principles of the republican party. He has for more than four decades been a resident of Nebraska and throughout the entire period has been an interested witness of the growth of Hamilton county, while along the line of agricultural progress he has done his full share.

ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

The typical Scotch determination and thrift have been potent in enabling Alexander McDougall to win a goodly measure of material prosperity and within a period of nearly forty years' residence in Hamilton county, Nebraska, he has advanced from the status of an obscure pioneer farmer of most modest resources to that of one of the substantial citizens and representative agriculturists and stock raisers of the county, his well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, being situated in section 26, Monroe township.

Of the stanchest of Scottish lineage on both the paternal and maternal sides, Alexander McDougall was born in the state of Pennsylvania, on the 13th of September, 1855, and is a son of Matthew and Isabel (Douglas) McDougall, who became the parents of seven children, the father having died when but thirty-six years of age in Illinois. The mother survived him many years and was a resident of Hamilton county at the time of her death. Matthew McDougall was born in Scotland and was a youth when he came to the United States. From Pennsylvania he removed to Illinois in the year 1857, the major part of his active career in this country having been one of association with farm enterprise.

Alexander McDougall is indebted to the public schools of Illinois for his early education, which was limited in scope and when he was a lad of twelve years he began to depend largely upon his own resources. He gave most of his time to farm work and his initial venture as an independent farmer was made in Illinois. There was solemnized his marriage to Miss Isabel McAllister and he continued his alliance with farm industry in Illinois until 1885, when he came with his family to Hamilton county, Nebraska, and prepared to undertake the labors and responsibilities of developing and improving a farm. He brought with him a goodly supply of household effects, a few farm implements, a team of mules and a cow, so that he was not without due provisions for establishing a comfortable home. He first purchased a tract of eighty acres, but this he later sold. He then rented a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Monroe township, which he worked for eighteen years before purchasing it in 1904. His well ordered enterprise and

careful methods have resulted in the development of this place into one of the valuable farm properties of the county. The little frame house that was the original habitation of the family has been supplanted by a commodious and modern dwelling and the other buildings on the farm are of excellent type, properly arranged for the practical uses to which they are applied in connection with the diversified operations of the well kept farm. The first wife of Mr. McDougall was about twenty-eight years of age at the time of her death in 1883, her children having been three in number, namely: Matthew J., who died at the age of thirty-seven years; Nora, who died at the age of nineteen years, in 1900; and Julia, who is the wife of Merle Coon, of Aurora, Hamilton county. The second wife of Mr. McDougall bore the maiden name of Jennie May Firth and she was born and reared in Illinois. She proved a true helpmeet to her husband in connection with his progressive career as a farmer in Hamilton county and on the old home farm her death occurred in the year 1909. Of this union were born seven children: Pearl is the wife of Fred Fowler of Aurora, this county; Ira became a member of the United States army, his enlistment having occurred in New Mexico in 1910 and his service having continued during the period in which the nation was involved in the great World war; Edna is the wife of Charles Cunningham, a farmer in Hamilton county; Minnie is the wife of Chester Cunningham of Aurora, this county; Iva is the wife of Wiley Garrison and they reside in the state of Illinois; Arvilla is the wife of James Morrell of Hamilton county and lives on a farm; and Beckford remains at the paternal home.

In politics Mr. McDougall gives his allegiance to the democratic party and while he has labored earnestly and faithfully in achieving prosperity during the period of his residence in Hamilton county, he has not been unmindful of his civic responsibilities and has shown loyal and helpful interest in community affairs. He is now in independent financial circumstances, as the result of his own well directed efforts and in view of his present status there is significance in the statement that upon coming to Hamilton county he was compelled to go in debt for the first bill of groceries which he here purchased. He has been one of the world's determined and productive workers and well merits the success which has rewarded his efforts.

SWAN J. JOHNSON

Since 1912 Swan J. Johnson has been living retired in Saronville, Clay county, a respected and representative citizen. A native of Sweden, he was born in that country August 28, 1846.

Swan J. Johnson received his education in his native land and there remained until he was twenty-two years of age, at which time he came to the United States. He went directly to Indiana and there resided for one year and then removed to Galesburg, Illinois, where he lived for a period of five years. Hearing of the greater opportunities being offered in the west, Mr. Swanson decided to try his fortunes here and in 1879 arrived in Nebraska. He had farmed rented land in Illinois but now determined to engage in that line of work on his own account and he purchased a quarter section of railroad land near Harvard. That land was

then nothing but prairie and upon it he built a little frame house, fourteen by twenty-two feet, consisting of two rooms and he had a straw barn for the cattle, which consisted of four head of horses and two cows. He also brought some farm machinery with him from Illinois. For three years he was unfortunate in being unable to raise crops and would have gone back east had it been possible at that time. Mr. Swanson was a man of quick wit and ready intelligence and grasped every opportunity that lay in his path. He allowed nothing to discourage him and steadily forged ahead, until he is now living retired in Saronville, financially independent.

In 1875 in Moline, Illinois, occurred the marriage of Mr. Johnson and Miss Amanda Forsell, also a native of Sweden, who came to America when fourteen years of age. They have become parents of nine children: Benjamin, who is farming in Decatur county, Kansas; Oscar, farmer of Wilcox; Fred, who is engaged in farming in Clay county; Hattie Peterson, residing in Clay county; E., who makes his home in Clay county; Luther, a resident of Saronville; Viola Peterson, who is residing on the home place; Wendell, farming in Clay county; and Clifford, at home.

At one time Mr. Johnson was in possession of nine hundred acres of fine land in the county but he has divided this among his children. When he removed to Saronville he built a fine home and now owns this, together with additional property. He has been active in the development and improvement of the community and for a number of years served his fellowmen as school treasurer. The religious faith of the family is that of the Swedish Lutheran church, of which they are consistent members. On looking back over the years of his life Mr. Johnson is glad that he did not have means sufficient to take him back east at the time when his crops failed him and every attempt at advancement seemed futile. He is glad he stayed and worked out his many problems and he attributes his success to his ability along an agricultural line and his ready grasping of opportunities.

H. E. BELDEN

H. E. Belden, deceased, was for many years one of the successful business men and agriculturists of Clay county, Nebraska. His death occurred on the 24th of November, 1917, and caused a feeling of deep bereavement to sweep the community. He was a native of Vermont, in which state his birth occurred January 6, 1858, his parents being Daniel and Jane Belden, also natives of that state. The father passed away in Vermont and after his death Mrs. Belden made her home with our subject, H. E., for seven years and then returned to her native state, where her demise occurred. Four children were born to their union, two of whom are living: Imogene Woodward of Vermont; and Lottie Carry of Massachusetts. H. E. Belden was the third in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Belden were throughout their lives consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

H. E. Belden received his education in the schools of Vermont and later learned the carpenter's trade, which line of work he followed until he came to Nebraska in 1880. On arriving in this state he acquired a half section of land in Frontier county and after residing for three years on that land, disposed of it and removed

to Clay county. He bought some land in that county, whereon he resided until January, 1916, when he sold his farm and moved into Harvard. For eight years he conducted a plumbing establishment in that town, going back and forth from his farm during that time. He was always a stanch advocate of education and for thirty years was a member of the board of education.

In 1882 Mr. Belden was united in marriage to Flora Wyckoff, a native of Livingston county, Illinois, and a daughter of Thomas and Margaret (Wright) Wyckoff. Her father was born in Ohio, while her mother was a native of Pennsylvania. Their marriage occurred in Illinois, however, and in 1871 they came to Nebraska, where the father secured a homestead in Fillmore county. Mr. Wyckoff resided on the home place until a short time before his death, when he moved to Harvard, where he died. The mother passed away at the home of Mrs. Belden in Harvard in 1917. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wyckoff, four of whom are living: Mrs. Belden; Charles, who is a well known plumber of Harvard; Alva, a rancher of Douglas, Wyoming; and John, who is a banker of Nebraska. Mrs. Wyckoff was a consistent member of the Baptist church, while her husband attended the Congregational church. In politics he was a stanch republican and fraternally was identified with the Masons. For three years he saw active service during the Civil war and was with Sherman on his march to the sea. Mr. and Mrs. Belden became the parents of four children: Luella, who is the wife of Roy Hunt, a druggist at Harvard; Cora, who married Harry Bermond, a farmer six miles west of Harvard; Arthur, who is engaged in the plumbing and windmill business at Harvard; and Edith, who is the wife of Russell Salsbury of York, where he is engaged in the drug business.

Throughout his life Mr. Belden was a stanch supporter of the republican party and the principles for which it stands. His fraternal affiliation was with the Masons and his religious faith was that of the Christian church. Mr. Belden was one of the highly respected and enterprising citizens of Clay county, a man of great energy and rare business ability. He was well known for his integrity in all business transactions and his death removed from this portion of the state one of its most useful citizens. Mrs. Belden is still making her home in Harvard, where she owns a fine home and is financially independent. She is active in the lodge circles of that town as a prominent member of the Eastern Star and her children also have membership in that organization.

GEORGE E. JACKETT

George E. Jackett is among the very first of the early pioneers of Hamilton county, arriving here July 1, 1871. A native of Illinois he was born in Lake county, that state, December 10, 1845, a son of Michael and Mary (Knapp) Jackett.

The parents of George E. Jackett removed to Wisconsin in 1846 and there he received his education in the primitive country schools. After putting his textbooks aside he engaged in farming and some time after his marriage came west, making the trip overland in a covered wagon. He arrived in Hamilton county, July 1, 1871, bringing with him as a part of his equipment three horses and two



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE E. JACKETT

cows. He acquired a homestead of eighty acres in the Union precinct and his first improvements thereon consisted of a small dugout, a sod barn and a henhouse. He broke his own land and did his first freighting from Lincoln. He set out a number of shade trees on the land and also planted about three hundred peach trees, most of which soon died. His crops were destroyed at various times by the grasshoppers, but no obstacle was too great for him to overcome. Elk, deer, antelope and wild cats were plentiful around the country and he has killed many of these animals, whose skins he has preserved. During the winter he trapped beaver along the river and has had as many as four hundred Indians camping on the farm. The Indians frightened Mrs. Jackett on coming to their home at one time. She assisted in molding bullets to be used in case of an Indian attack upon their home. He hauled his wood from the Blue river and during a big Easter blizzard he and his family were storm bound for several days and his dog and his hogs were snowed under for a week. Later Mr. Jackett preempted eighty additional acres and is now in possession of two hundred and forty acres, on which stand a good set of improvements.

On the 21st of March, 1871, occurred the marriage of Mr. Jackett and Miss Mary Cameron and they have become the parents of six children: James, who is residing at Genoa, Colorado; Royal C., at home; George, a farmer in Hamilton county; Margaret, the wife of William J. Mack of Twin Falls, Idaho; Edna B., the wife of H. H. Kilburn of Kimberly, Idaho; and L. G., at home.

Mr. Jackett has always taken an active interest in the development of the community in which he makes his home and to that end has served his fellow citizens as a member of the school board. His political policies are of an independent nature, he voting for the man best fitted for the position without regard for party. His fraternal affiliation is with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Mr. Jackett was one of the early farmers in this state. He belongs to that class of representative citizens who came to the west with the determination to find in a new and growing country the success which perseverance, labor and energy merit.

FRANK C. RUNDLE

Frank C. Rundle began life in Aurora with a capital of but twenty dollars. Today he is the owner of a valuable farm of two hundred and eighty acres near Ansley and was previously the owner of another excellent property which he sold in 1919. For many years he was actively associated with farming interests and his industry and diligence brought to him a very substantial measure of success. Mr. Rundle was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, April 3, 1867, his parents being Abraham and Caroline (Townsend) Rundle, both of whom were natives of England. Crossing the Atlantic they became residents of Chicago in early life and afterward removed to Iroquois county, Illinois, where the father purchased land and continued to make his home until his demise. His widow still occupies the old homestead, having there eighty acres of valuable land. The farm at one time comprised one hundred and sixty acres but half of the amount has been sold. Mr. Abraham Rundle gave his political endorsement to the republican party and filled various town-

ship offices and also served as school director. His religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was empty-handed when he came to the United States but through diligence and determination won success and was able to provide a good living for his family, which numbered five children: Carrie, who is the wife of L. J. Randolph, a farmer of Enid, Oklahoma; Nellie, the wife of P. K. Divilbiss, and also a resident of Enid; Frank C.; Philadelphia Elisabeth, the wife of Frank S. Hogg, a farmer of Hamilton county, Nebraska; Abraham G., a traveling salesman, living at Mazon, Illinois.

Frank C. Rundle pursued his education in the country schools and in Grand Prairie Seminary at Onarga, Illinois. His youthful experiences were those of the farm bred boy and when he started out to earn his own living he continued to devote his attention to farm work. In 1888 he arrived in Hamilton county, Nebraska, reaching Aurora with but twenty dollars to his name. He assisted in erecting a building by carrying the hod and afterward worked for George Daniels, a prominent contractor. A little later he entered the employ of Samuel Hogg, a farmer, for whom he worked by the month and subsequently rented land, desiring that his labors should more directly benefit himself. His industry and economy at length brought him sufficient capital to enable him to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of land in 1906 and from that time until 1919 he owned and occupied his farm, converting it into a valuable property and annually gathering a golden harvest as a reward for the care and labor which he bestowed upon the fields. The property which he purchased at sixty-five dollars per acre he sold in 1919 for two hundred dollars per acre. He then bought two hundred and eighty acres of land near Ansley and still owns this farm. He likewise purchased a nice modern residence in Aurora at No. 1516 Eleventh street and is most pleasantly located, engaging in no business save the supervision of his own interests and investments.

In 1890 Mr. Rundle was united in marriage to Miss Laura Hogg, who was born in Morgan county, Illinois, a daughter of Samuel and Anna (Willoughby) Hogg, both of whom were natives of England and settled in Illinois in early life. In 1884 they came to Nebraska and the father purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Hamilton county at twenty-five dollars per acre, he and his wife continuing to reside upon the farm throughout their remaining days. They were members of the Episcopal church and were highly esteemed by all who knew them. They had a family of six children of whom Mrs. Rundle was the sixth in order of birth. By her marriage Mrs. Rundle has become the mother of seven children: Glenn, who is living at Fort Collins, Colorado, where he is a mechanic; Edith, the wife of J. A. Casteel, a farmer of this county; Ernest who is on his father's farm; Clara, the wife of R. E. Garwood, a farmer of Alliance, Nebraska; Ralph, who also carries on farming near Alliance; Carol and Loren, both in school.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Rundle are very active and prominent members of the Presbyterian church in which he is serving as an elder. For several years he was superintendent of the Sunday school, while Mrs. Rundle was a teacher of a Sunday school class. They do all in their power to advance the work of the church and have ever been supporters of all those forces which make for moral progress in the community. Mr. Rundle also belongs to the Highlanders. In politics he is a republican and for eight years served as precinct assessor, while in 1920 he was elected county assessor and is now filling that position. He is also connected with the

Farm Bureau and is organizing bureaus in different counties. His entire life has been characterized by constructive effort resulting in the material, intellectual, social and moral progress of the state.

PERLY G. HIXSON

Perly G. Hixson dates his residence in Hamilton county from May, 1873. He first traveled westward in a prairie schooner and became a pioneer resident of Iowa, while later he established his home in this state when Hamilton county was still on the western frontier. He therefore participated in all that constituted pioneer life with the hardships and the privations, the opportunities and advantages. He was born in Vinton county, Ohio, June 29, 1851, and is a son of Griffith and Sarah (Arganbright) Hixson, both of whom were born in the east. At an early day they removed westward to Wisconsin and there the father engaged in carpentering. He married Sarah Arganbright, a daughter of Philip Arganbright, a native of Pennsylvania who removed from the Keystone state to Ohio and continued to live within its borders until called to his final rest. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Griffith Hixson were born five children of whom four are living: Lydia, the wife of H. J. Willis, mentioned elsewhere in this work; Perly G.; David, a resident of Hamilton county; and William F., who is a retired farmer living in Imperial, Chase county, Nebraska. The parents were consistent Christian people, the father belonging to the United Brethren church, while the mother was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His political endorsement was given to the republican party but he never sought nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his efforts and energies upon his business affairs, thus providing a comfortable living for his family.

Perly G. Hixson was educated in the common schools of Ohio and started out to provide for his own support by working as a farm hand at eighteen dollars per month. He was thus employed for seven years and from Ohio removed westward in a prairie schooner in company with his brother-in-law H. J. Willis, residing in Iowa for eleven months. He then resumed his westward journey and reached Hamilton county in 1873. Here he homesteaded and still owns the land which he secured. He first had a tract of eighty acres to which he afterward added eighty acres more and then purchased forty acres of railroad land. His landed possessions now aggregate one hundred and ninety-four acres which he has converted into a rich and productive tract that annually returns to him a gratifying income. His first home was a sod house in which he lived for twenty-five years. As time passed on he carried on the work of developing and improving his property and now has an excellent farm, the neat and thrifty appearance of which indicates his careful supervision and practical methods.

In 1883 Mr. Hixson was married to Miss Jane Dixon, who was born in Ross county, Ohio, and who passed away in 1913, in the faith of the United Brethren church, of which she was a devoted member. Mr. Hixson was again married January 26, 1918, his second marriage being with Laura Shenault, who was born in Ohio. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Hixson

belongs to the United Brethren church. His political support is given to the republican party and he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day.

In 1918 Mr. Hixson removed to Aurora and retired from active business although he goes to the farm occasionally and assists in its cultivation but has rented the land. He is numbered among the pioneer settlers of the county for there were comparatively few residents here at the time of his arrival. Antelopes were seen in considerable numbers and there were also a few buffaloes while wild geese and prairie chickens were numerous. The Indians were passing through here at times on their way to the reservations in the west and various evidences of frontier life were seen. Mr. Hixson has at all times borne his part in the work of general progress and improvement and has lived to see remarkable changes during the period of his connection with Hamilton county. His worth as a man and citizen are widely acknowledged and the most envious cannot grudge him his success, so worthily has it been won and so honorably used.

C. G. YOST

C. G. Yost, who is engaged in the automobile business in Sutton, was born near Harvard, Nebraska, in 1885, a son of George and Margaret (Sinner) Yost, both natives of Russia. They came to Clay county in 1873 and the father purchased eighty acres of railroad land, later buying an additional two hundred and twenty acres. At the time of his death he was in possession of three hundred and forty acres of well improved land. Their first home on this land was of sod and he broke his ground with the aid of a horse. Eight children were born to that union, of whom C. G. was the fifth in order of birth. They are all prominent residents of Clay county. The death of Mr. Yost occurred on the old home place in 1911 and came as a severe blow to his family and many friends. He was a well educated man for his day and a great reader. Throughout his life he was a member of the German Evangelical church and always took a leading part in all church affairs. His political allegiance was given to the republican party. His widow is still making her home on the old home place.

C. G. Yost received his education in the schools of Harvard, where he graduated from the high school. He was reared on a farm and there remained until he was eighteen years of age, when he became an employe of the Yost Lumber Company of Harvard. He remained in that connection for five years, at the end of which time he was sent to Grafton to manage the company's yard. At the end of two years he resigned, establishing an implement and hardware store in Grafton, which business he conducted on his own account for a period of four years. He then purchased an implement business in Sutton, which he conducted until 1917, when he accepted the Ford agency there, with which he is still actively connected. He has built up a fine trade and during the year 1920 had a business of over eighty-five thousand dollars. When he first took over the agency he had only a little shop and but one helper. The business increased so rapidly, however, under his able management, that he was forced to move to more commodious quarters, with

the result that he now occupies a large building and has four assistants. He also runs a garage repair shop in connection with the agency.

In August, 1908, Mr. Yost was married to Miss Elizabeth Wendt, a native of Germany and a daughter of Herman Wendt, who is still living in that country. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Yost five children have been born: Freda; Cecilia; Ardell; and Merlin. Otto died at the age of nine years.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Yost the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the republican party, although he has neither sought nor desired public office, preferring to devote his entire time to his business. The religious faith of the family is that of the Evangelical church. Mr. Yost is one of the highly respected men of Sutton and has been uniformly successful in the conduct of his business. He is alert, energetic and progressive and has already made for himself a prominent position in commercial circles and is steadily climbing the path of advancement to success.

THOMAS EZRA TURNER

A veteran of the Civil war who is now living retired in Harvard is Thomas Ezra Turner who was born in Oswego county, New York, on the 13th of July, 1845, a son of Isaiah and Mary Ann (Hoagg) Turner, further mention of whom may be found in the sketch of H. H. Turner, appearing elsewhere in this work.

Thomas Ezra Turner received his education in the common schools of Illinois and Iowa and at the age of sixteen years entered the Union army from the latter state, joining Company E, Thirty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until 1865. At the close of the war he had won the promotion of sergeant. Mr. Turner participated in many of the important battles of the war, serving with the Army of the Cumberland, and was at Shiloh, Chaplin Hills, Stone River, Liberty Gap, and in the Atlanta campaign with Sherman on his march to the sea. He was wounded but once and that during the battle of Liberty Gap. He was also active at Dalton, Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, and Ezra church and his last active service was at Bentonville, North Carolina. After receiving his discharge he went to Iowa and there engaged in the milling business, which he followed until 1887 when he came to Nebraska. He had bought a farm in Clay county, erected a frame house on the land and there resided until 1910, when he removed to Harvard. He purchased a nice home in that town and is there residing, enjoying a life of retirement. He is still in possession of a quarter section of land, which supplies him with a substantial income.

In Iowa Mr. Turner was married to Miss Emma Hurd, a native of Lorain county, Ohio, and a daughter of S. H. and Ellen (Wallace) Hurd, both natives of New York state and of Scotch descent. At an early day Mr. and Mrs. Hurd went to Ohio and there the father engaged as a cabinet-maker and later as a miller, achieving a substantial amount of success in the conduct of each enterprise. Five children were born to them: O. S., who is a commission broker and real estate man of Kansas City; Mrs. Turner; and three other children who are deceased. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Turner eight children have been born: Minnie, who is the wife of James Horn, a farmer and owner of a country store at Colby, Minnesota;

Marshall, a decorator and painter of Harvard; Grace, who is the wife of B. H. Blaisdell, engineer in the Philippine Islands; Emma J., who is the wife of William Alberding, who is working her father's farm; Mary, the wife of Paul Alberding, engaged in the undertaking business at Harvard; Fred, paper hanger and painter of Clay Center; Wallace, traveling man with headquarters in York; and Elsie, the wife of D. Stone, veterinary surgeon of Harvard. Wallace was in the United States army for eighteen months during the World war and was the first boy to leave Harvard. Throughout his period of service he was stationed on the Rio Grande as a member of the medical corps.

The political allegiance of Mr. Turner has always been given to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. His religious faith is that of the Christian church and he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He has been town clerk for many years and served as school director, also, for some time. The life of Mr. Turner has been a useful, active and busy one and whatever success he has achieved has come to him as the reward of ability and industry. Those who meet him find him a social, genial gentleman and his good qualities win for him the warm regard of those with whom he comes into contact.

AMBROSE BROWN

A man who was especially prominent and influential in connection with pioneer affairs in Hamilton county and whose character and ability well fitted him for leadership in community sentiment and action, Ambrose Brown merits honorable recognition in the history of the section of Nebraska to whose early development he contributed his quota. He was born in Fremont county, Iowa, in 1849, a date which indicates that his parents were numbered among the early settlers of that section of the Hawkeye state, where he himself was reared under the conditions and influences of the pioneer days, his superior intellectual powers enabling him by self-discipline effectively to supplement and round out the education which he there obtained in the common schools. In Iowa was solemnized his marriage to Miss Mary Pike, likewise a native of that state, and she died in 1920, in California at the age of sixty-nine years, where Mr Brown now maintains his residence.

In the early '70s Mr. Brown came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, and obtained eighty acres of unbroken prairie land in Union township. He erected a sod house with board floor and constructed a dugout barn. He then directed his attention vigorously to the breaking of his land and making the same available for cultivation. He had to go overland to Hastings and Harvard for necessary supplies and his early grists were ground in the mill at Beaver Crossing and in the Seeley mill in York county. Indians were still in evidence in this section, as were also antelopes and deer, and visitors of a different type were the grasshoppers, which wrought havoc on the little prairie farm of Mr. Brown, where the family endured also their share of loss through droughts and other adverse conditions. In the now historic Easter blizzard that caused this section of the state to be virtually snowbound for three days, Mr. Brown tied a line of twine between his house and barn,

in order to find his way back and forth through the blinding storm. Among the early experiences which he encountered was the attempt to raise watermelons and having his efforts and hopes subverted when rabbits destroyed the growing product. Finally Mr. Brown sold his farm, stock and equipments and returned to Iowa, where he remained five years. He then came again to Hamilton county and resumed his activites on his old homestead farm, the ownership of which he had retained. He here served as justice of the peace for a number of years and was the incumbent of this office at the time a man was hanged in a livery stable at Giltner, he having been one of those who aided in removing the body of this victim from its gruesome position.

From Nebraska Mr. Brown removed to California and there served nine years as district judge of Fresno county. He still resides in that county and is now venerable in years, even as he is known and honored for his sterling character and distinctive ability. He was one of the organizers of the Christian church in Hamilton county, Nebraska, and served as a local preacher of the same. Of his two children the elder is Dennis, who is engaged in the laundry business at Fresno, California. The younger son, Robert E., continues as the representative of this pioneer family in Hamilton county, Nebraska. He was born in Iowa, in 1876, and accompanied his parents on their removal to California, where he received educational advantages and where he remained until he had attained his majority. He then returned to Hamilton county, Nebraska, and turned his attention to farm enterprise, in connection with which he has achieved great success. He is now owner of a valuable farm property of two hundred and eighty acres, in Union township, the same being improved with two sets of buildings, and the land being maintained under a high state of productivness, besides which good grades of live stock are here raised.

In Hamilton county Robert Brown wedded Miss Anna Severson, whose father, Henry Severson, came to this county from Wisconsin, in 1871, and who was one of the honored pioneer citizens of the county at the time of his death, in October, 1914, his wife having passed away in 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have five children: Lyle, Oscar, Daryle, Opal and Willard. All of the children remain at home except Lyle, who is now a resident of the state of Washington. Daryle is, in 1921, a student in the high school at Harvard, Clay county

Mr. Brown advocates the principles for which the democratic party stands, but in local affairs maintains an independent attitude and supports men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company at Harvard, Clay county, and has served nearly a quarter of a century as school director of his district.

PHILLIP KREUTZ

Since 1920 Phillip Kreutz has been living retired in Harvard, enjoying the results of a life spent in intelligently directed industry. He was born in Prussia on the 1st of August, 1849, a son of Henry and Barbara (Braun) Kreutz, also natives of Prussia. In 1853 his parents came to the United States and settled

in Wisconsin, where they purchased land and there resided until death. Three children were born to them, of whom Phillip was the youngest and is the only one living. Henry Kreutz gave his political allegiance to the democratic party and was a consistent member of the Lutheran church.

Phillip Kreutz received his education in the country schools of Wisconsin and in early life engaged in farming in connection with his father. In 1874 he left the parental roof, however, and coming to Nebraska located in Clay county, where he bought out a homestead. His first home on this land was a dugout but he later erected a fine frame dwelling. His ability as a farmer was soon recognized and he became one of the leading agriculturists of the county. In 1920 he decided to retire from active life and removed to Harvard. He maintains an interest in farming and has four hundred and eighty acres of fine farm land in the surrounding vicinity.

While living in Wisconsin Mr. Kreutz was united in marriage to Miss Emaline Miller, a native of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, and a daughter of Peter Miller, one of the early settlers of that state. Nine children have been born to them: Ida, who passed away in September, 1919, was the wife of John Bieck, a retired farmer of Harvard; Edward, who is living on the old homestead; George, who is engaged in farming near Trumbull; Orlo, a farmer of Clay county; Raymond, whose death occurred in September, 1920, and who had for some time resided on his father's homestead; Delma, who lives at home and works in the Harvard State Bank; Rosie, a nurse in the Evangelical hospital at Marshalltown, Iowa; Arnold, who is residing in Hamilton county; and Roland. Roland was in the Eighty-ninth Division and saw active service in France and Germany, receiving his discharge in June, 1919. He is now engaged in farming.

The political allegiance of Phillip Kreutz is given to the democratic party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. He and his wife are members of the Evangelical church and he is fraternally identified with the Modern Woodmen. The early career of Mr. Kreutz was indeed one of adversity and hardship but as the years passed he gradually worked his way upward and his course proves that upon the sure foundation of industry and indefatigable energy success may be built.

FRANK E. TURNER

Frank E. Turner is one of the up-to-date, live, progressive business men of Clay county. He is the owner of a large Ford garage in the town of Harvard, at which place he maintains his residence. A native son of Clay county he was born on his father's farm, October 1, 1883, his parents being J. W. and Pearly (Smith) Turner, the former a native of Michigan and the latter of New York. Their marriage took place in Michigan and in 1879 they came to Clay county where Mr. Turner bought land from the railroad and thereon resided until the spring of 1897. At that time he removed to Eldorado and opened a blacksmith shop. He had also conducted that line of business while residing on his old farm. In the fall of 1898 he sold out his shop in Eldorado and removed to Harvard, resumed his trade and is now one of the best known and most popular



FRANK E. TURNER

blacksmiths in the county. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Turner, three of whom are living: Charles, who is residing on his grandfather's farm in Hamilton county; Frank E., the subject of this review; and Jessie, who is now residing in Detroit, where she is engaged in nursing, having graduated from the Lincoln Sanatorium. J. W. Turner follows an independent course in politics. He has served on the town board and is now a member of the city council. The religious faith of Mr. and Mrs. Turner is that of the Christian church and fraternally he is identified with the Workmen and the Odd Fellows. The grandfather of our subject was Henry Turner, who came to Hamilton county at an early day, purchased some land and thereon resided until his death. He was one of the well known and honored pioneers of Clay county and Charles Turner is now farming his original homestead.

Frank E. Turner received his education in the schools of Eldorado and Harvard and at an early age learned the backsmith's trade. He worked with his father from the age of fourteen years until he was twenty, when he bought out a blacksmith shop at Eldorado, which he conducted successfully until May, 1911. He suffered a great loss when the building housing his business burned and he returned to Harvard, where he bought out his father's garage and has been in that line of business since. For nine years he has had the Ford car agency and his business has reached extensive proportions. He has a large repair business which demands the services of from two to four men all of the time.

In June, 1905, Mr. Turner was united in marriage to Miss Edith Osborn, a native of Clay county, and a daughter of T. J. Osborn, who came to this county in 1880 and still resides on the old homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Turner have become parents of two children: Ray, who is attending the Harvard schools; and Loraine.

Like his father, Mr. Turner maintains an independent course in politics, and fraternally is identified with the Elks and the Odd Fellows. Mrs. Turner is a consistent member of the Christian church, in the interests of which she takes an active part. As the result of laudable ambition and excellent business ability Mr. Turner has won for himself an enviable place in the business, social and fraternal circles of Harvard, and he holds the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens.

PETER LEFEVER

When recognition is taken of the fact that Peter Lefever, a well known citizen of Hamilton county, has passed the age of threescore years and ten and was a young man when he came to Nebraska and established his home in this county, it is needless to offer further evidence of his legitimate claims to pioneer honors. He has witnessed and taken part in the development of this section of the state from a veritable prairie wild to its present status of opulence and prosperity, has known well the trials and hardships of the early days, but has never faltered in appreciation and confidence and has so utilized the resources of the country as to

achieve substantial personal prosperity, the while he has contributed to general progress along civic and industrial lines.

Mr. Lefever was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, September 24, 1847, and his parents, Anthony and Elizabeth (Albright) Lefever, passed their entire lives in that state, the father having been a tanner by trade and vocation. Mr. Lefever received limited educational advantages in his youth and was but thirteen years of age when he began to provide for himself by working on farms, in which connection his original compensation was but six dollars a month. As a driver of ox teams in the lumber camps of his native state he commanded wages of twenty-six dollars a month. He attended school at irregular intervals, but his broader education has been gained through self-discipline and association with the practical affairs of life. He was twenty-four years of age when, in 1871, he came to Nebraska. He arrived in Lincoln on a freight train and he and his brother Hiram, who accompanied him, there bought a yoke of oxen and with them came overland to Hamilton county, where each took up a homestead claim of eighty acres and prepared to initiate the reclaiming and cultivating of their land. Peter Lefever erected on his place a sod house of two rooms, with dirt roof, and also constructed of poles and straw a primitive stable or barn. The brothers used their ox team in the breaking of the prairie soil and their early activities included also the planting of trees and the careful cultivation of their crops, it having been necessary at that period to go to Grand Island for general provisions and to have grists of grain ground in the mill at Beaver Crossing, three days being spent in making the latter trip. Mr. Lefever has seen deer and antelopes roaming about the prairies now represented in finely improved farms, has suffered losses through several visitations of grasshoppers, has had to depend upon corn and cornstalks for fuel at times, lost his crops through hot winds in 1893 and 1894, and was buffeted to the limit with the memorable Easter blizzard which kept the community snowbound for three days. He is now owner of a well improved and valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres, which is the tangible evidence of his labors and careful planning in the earlier stages of his distinctly progressive career in Hamilton county. He is now living retired in the village of Stockham, where he was one of the organizers of the Farmers Elevator Company and he has given his support to enterprises and measures that have added greatly to the general welfare of his home county and state. In politics he is independent of strict partisan lines and has been so distinctively a productive worker that he has had neither time nor inclination for political activity nor office-holding.

In 1876 was recorded the marriage of Mr. Lefever to Miss Esther Pealen, daughter of the late Charles Pealen, who had served as a soldier in the Civil war and who thereafter became a pioneer settler in Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he took up and improved a homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Lefever have five children: Charles, Ernest, Harry, Lottie and Esther. All of the children remain at the parental home except Lottie, who is the wife of Stephen Dobbs of Carthage, South Dakota. Ernest and Harry were in the nation's service in connection with the World war, Ernest having been a member of Company B, Sixteenth Infantry, in the First Division of Engineers, and having gone with the first contingent of troops sent to France. He received his preliminary training at Fort Logan, Colorado, and rose to the rank of sergeant. He remained in France until the

armistice brought the war to a close and received his honorable discharge after his return to his native land. Harry received his training at Camp Dodge, Iowa, and was there stationed until he received his honorable discharge.

HENRY A. EGGERT

Among those who have won success and are now enjoying the fruits of their former toils in retirement from business in Aurora is Henry A. Eggert. For many years he was closely associated with agricultural interests in Hamilton county and as the years passed acquired more land from time to time, being still the owner of three hundred and sixty acres constituting a very valuable property. Mr. Eggert comes to Nebraska from Illinois, his birth having occurred in Bureau county of the latter state, July 29, 1859. He pursued his education in the schools of Princeton, the county seat of Bureau county and when his textbooks were put aside he started out in the business world as a farmer, having been reared to that occupation, so that he was already familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops.

It was in 1880 that Mr. Eggert arrived in Hamilton county, at which time his financial resources consisted of but eighty dollars. He was ambitious and energetic, however, and renting land he began farming. He continued to cultivate these lands until 1885 when he purchased eighty acres for which he paid twelve hundred dollars, buying the property partly on time. He had to improve the farm and erected thereon a little dwelling. This constituted the beginning of the success which has since crowned his labors and which has made him one of the progressive farmers of this section of the state. His methods were at once practical and progressive and year by year he cultivated the fields, gathering good harvests and adding to his financial resources until he was able to acquire three hundred and sixty acres of land which he still owns, constituting a valuable property that returns to him a gratifying annual income. The intervening years have been a period of earnest and unremitting labor and his diligence and energy have been the foundation upon which he has builded his success.

In 1883 Mr. Eggert was married to Miss Lizzie Baker, a native of Hancock county, Illinois, and a daughter of Thomas H. and Jane (Byland) Baker, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. They came to Illinois September 30, 1852, and continued to reside in this state until 1879, when they removed to Hamilton county. Here the father rented land the first year and then purchased a farm, occupying and cultivating that place until the death of his wife in 1898. He passed away at the home of his son at Alma, Nebraska, in 1906. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Baker numbers seven children, five of whom are living, namely: Leroy J. Baker, a carpenter, residing at Kansas City, Kansas; George G., a retired farmer of Alma; Theodore, who carries on farming at Alma; Mrs. Eggert; and Mrs. C. T. Holliday, who is living on a farm near Aurora.

Mr. and Mrs. Eggert have become parents of three children of whom two survive, Charles Theodore having died in October, 1920, at the age of thirty-six years. The surviving son, Merle H., is cashier of the Hanson State Bank at Hanson,

Nebraska; and Minnie Viola is the wife of C. R. Garrett of this county. Mrs. Eggert is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, loyally following its teachings. In politics Mr. Eggert maintains an independent course, voting for men and measures rather than parties. In 1916 he removed to Aurora, where he purchased a nice home at No. 711 N street. While on the farm he had lived a life of intense and well directed activity and in addition to tilling the fields had successfully engaged in feeding stock in the winter seasons for a number of years. He is now enjoying a well earned rest and in 1915 he and his wife and daughter went to California, where they spent the winter. His business activities are confined only to the supervision of his farming and investment interests and by reason of the diligent life he has led he is numbered among the men of affluence in Hamilton county.

JOHN MILLIKEN

John Milliken had almost reached the seventy-eighth milestone on life's journey when he was called to his final rest. He was born in County Down, Ireland, December 28, 1840, and was there reared and educated. The opportunities of the new world, however, attracted him and about 1863 he came to America, settling in Pennsylvania.

It was in January, 1865, that Mr. Milliken was united in marriage to Miss Jane Wilson, also a native of the Emerald isle and they began their domestic life in the Keystone state where they continued to reside until the death of Mrs. Milliken. They were the parents of five children but all have now passed away. In 1877 Mr. Milliken returned to his native country and was there married on the 4th of May of that year to Miss Eliza Gray, a daughter of William and Eliza Jane (Anderson) Gray, both of whom had died when Mrs. Milliken was but four years of age. To this union were born seven children, three of whom are living: James, who carries on farming in Idaho; Thomas, a resident farmer of Aurora, Nebraska; Elizabeth, the wife of R. Slattery of Dallas, Texas.

It was soon after his second marriage that Mr. Milliken returned with his bride to the United States and settled in Pennsylvania, but in the same year removed to Illinois. Later, however, he returned to the Keystone state where he remained for two years and during that period conducted a store and hotel, winning a very substantial measure of success in his business there. He then removed to Hamilton county, Nebraska, in 1882 and purchased a half section of land, while later he purchased one hundred and sixty acres additional and subsequently another fourth section, while his next purchase was two hundred and forty acres. He owned all of this property at the time of his death, amounting to eight hundred and eighty acres. For a considerable period he had actively engaged in farming in this county but in 1905 removed with his family to Aurora and rented his farms, retiring from active business. His course is one which should serve to inspire and encourage others, showing what can be accomplished through individual effort, for when he arrived in the United States in 1863 he was the possessor of but two dollars and fifty cents and this sum he sent back to Ireland by some friends.

He began working in a brickyard, afterward was employed as a day laborer and scorned no work that would yield him an honest dollar. Step by step he progressed and as the years went by he won a place among the prosperous farmers of Hamilton county and was one of the most extensive land owners of this section of the state at the time of his demise.

In his political views Mr. Milliken was a republican and at all times kept well informed on the questions and issues of the day, but did not seek nor desire public office. He was a member of the Presbyterian church and passed away in that faith to which he had ever been loyal. He possessed many sterling traits of character, not the least of which was his thorough reliability in business and his loyalty in citizenship. His genuine worth was recognized by all with whom he came into contact and he was classed with those men whom to know is to esteem and honor.

FRANK HANSON

On the 20th of February, 1882, the late Frank Hanson arrived with his wife and two children at Aurora, the judicial center of Hamilton county, and as soon as possible thereafter he established himself on a rented farm, three miles northeast of the county seat. His equipment consisted of two good teams of horses and one or two cows and a small shanty sufficed to afford accommodations for the family in the early days, the supply of household effects being none too ample for even this modest dwelling. Mr. Hanson met many obstacles and difficulties in the earlier period of his residence in the county, but bravely and with unabated self-reliance he carried forward his work until he was able to make his first purchase of land and begin farming on the same. He met with losses through drought, grasshoppers and prairie fires, one such fire having approached within a short distance of his granary before he was able to extinguish it. About two years after his arrival in Hamilton county Mr. Hanson purchased eighty acres of railroad land for five dollars per acre and to this he later added an adjoining tract of one hundred and sixty acres. This entire property he finally sold at the rate of thirty-one dollars and twenty-five cents per acre and then continued his progressive movement by purchasing the old ranch of Martin Hannawald, for twenty dollars per acre, this place having had an area of five hundred and sixty acres. With increasing resources he later purchased of Ora Scott a place of eighty acres, somewhat to the north of his residence farm and finally bought of Swan Youngquist the latter's farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Monroe township. Thus cumulative success attended his earnest labors and he became one of the substantial and honored exponents of the agricultural and live stock industry in Hamilton county, where he was the owner at the time of his death of a valuable landed estate of seven hundred and twenty acres, this having since been divided into smaller farm properties. Mr. Hanson was for several years a member of the school board of his district and was an earnest communicant of the Swedish Lutheran church. He was sixty-eight years of age at the time of passing away on the 2d of January, 1914, his first wife having preceded him on the 8th of February, 1903, a devout communicant of the Lutheran church. Six children survive these honored pioneer

parents and all remain residents of Hamilton county, namely: William, Alfred, Charles, Lydia, Oscar and Peter. William, eldest of the sons, married Miss Tillie Norsen, whose father is a clergyman of the Lutheran church; Alfred, the second son, is still a bachelor; Charles married Miss Emma Swedburg; Lydia is the wife of Carl Lorentz; Oscar married Miss Cora Taylor; and Peter married Miss Hazel Lonsberry, whose paternal grandfather was the pioneer shoemaker at Aurora, Hamilton county.

Mr. Hanson was a native of Sweden and was an ambitious young man when he came to the United States and became identified with farm work near Princeton, Illinois, in which state was solemnized his marriage to his first wife, who shared with him in the trials and hardships of pioneer life in Nebraska. After her death Mr. Hanson married Miss Bettie Pearson, of Omaha, in 1904, and she now maintains her home at Aurora, the county seat of Hamilton county. No children were born of this second marriage.

FRANK C. MILLER

Frank C. Miller, who since 1919 has been manager for the Farmers Truck & Tractor Company at Aurora, was born in Blackhawk county, Iowa, November 21, 1880, his parents being W. A. and Nora A. (Will) Miller, both of whom are natives of Pennsylvania but in early life became residents of Iowa, where the father eventually took up and followed the occupation of farming. In 1888 he left that state to become a resident of York county, Nebraska, where he purchased land which he cultivated for a time and then sold, removing to Hamilton county. Here he again made investment in land, upon which he resided until 1919, when he removed to Aurora and retired from active business. He is still a resident of this city and he and his wife are highly esteemed in the community in which they make their home. They hold membership in the Christian church and Mr. Miller also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being loyal to the teachings and purposes of both organizations. His political endorsement is given to the republican party, but honors and emoluments of office have never had attraction for him. To him and his wife have been born two children, the younger being a daughter, Mabel, who is now the wife of O. C. Wingard, a resident farmer of Hamilton county.

Frank C. Miller was educated in the country schools of York county and in his youthful days had thorough experience in farm work but afterward learned the machinist's trade in York and for a number of years was a traction engineer. His broad experience in that direction well qualified him for the work which he undertook when in 1919 he accepted the management of the Farmers Truck & Tractor Company. He has thoroughly studied the question of tractors and their practical value to the farmer and is now devoting his entire attention to the business.

In 1900 Mr. Miller was married to Miss Maggie Keller, who was born near Council Bluffs, Iowa, and they have become parents of three children: Gladys, the wife of L. M. Brown, a railroad man of Aurora; Glenn, at home; and Fern, who is in school. Mrs. Miller and her children are members of the Christian church and Mr. Miller is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the

Ancient Order of United Workmen. He casts his ballot without regard to party ties but is never remiss in the duties of citizenship, supporting all those projects and measures which he deems of value in the public welfare.

WILLIAM T. RONAN

Business ability and energy have brought William T. Ronan to the place which he now occupies as one of the substantial citizens and men of affluence in Aurora. Through the steps of an orderly progression he has worked his way steadily upward and for many years was actively engaged in farming, thereby winning the prosperity that now enables him to rest from further labor. Born in Sutton, Canada, November 2, 1859, he is a son of Thomas and Mary (Perry) Ronan, both of whom were natives of Ireland but in early life crossed the Atlantic to Canada, where they were married. The father was a shoemaker by trade and after his removal to Chicago in 1867 there followed his trade for a number of years. Later he went to De Kalb, Illinois, where both he and his wife passed away. Of their family the following children are living: Richard, who works for the American Steel Company at De Kalb, Illinois; William T.; John J., a resident of Dean, Nebraska; Frank, a Chicago painting and decorating contractor; James, of Elgin, Illinois, who is a painting contractor; Theodore, who is engaged in the same line of business at Elgin, Illinois; Mary, the wife of Francis Lyon, residing in Montana; Maggie, the wife of Robert C. Davy, of De Kalb, Illinois; and Rachel, the widow of Charles Weston and a resident of De Kalb. The father was a member of the Catholic church, while the mother was of the Presbyterian faith. His political endorsement was given to the democratic party but he was never an aspirant for office. The success which he achieved caused him to be ranked with the self-made men, for he started out empty-handed and ere his demise had accumulated a considerable competence.

William T. Ronan was educated in the schools of Chicago and De Kalb and when quite young began to earn his living by work as a farm hand. He was also employed for eight or nine years in the barbed wire factory of De Kalb, Illinois, now the American Steel Company, and during the last two years of his residence in that state he engaged in the cultivation of a rented farm. In the spring of 1887 he arrived in Hamilton county and purchased two hundred and forty acres at twenty-five dollars per acre, after which he gave his attention to general agricultural pursuits for more than a quarter of a century or until 1913 when he sold eighty acres of his land, retaining the balance. He then took up his abode in Aurora, where he purchased a house and some lots and is now occupying a new and attractive home at Eleventh and J streets.

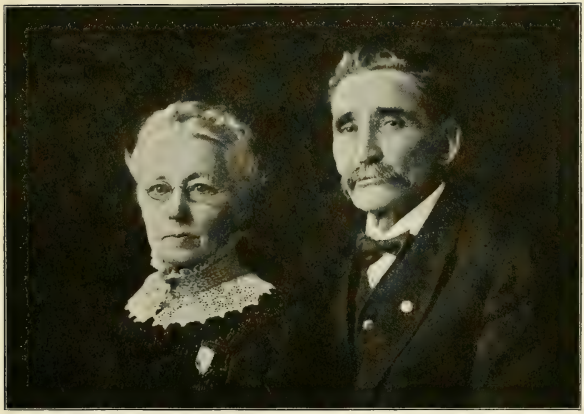
On Christmas day of 1883 Mr. Ronan wedded Emma Lyon, a native of De Kalb, Illinois, and a sister of Mrs. Ella Lysinger. She passed away in June, 1916, leaving four children: Ethel, the wife of George H. Houser, a music teacher in the public schools of Aurora; William E., a resident of Aurora; Ross I., who is employed by the Burlington Railroad Company at Aurora; and Percy R., of Kearney, who works for the Electric Light and Power Company. The wife and

mother was a consistent member of the Presbyterian church and was highly esteemed by all who knew her. On the 22d of January, 1918, Mr. Ronan was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Mary E. Cain, widow of J. B. Cain, who was born in Pike county, Illinois, a daughter of John and Isabelle (Douglas) Potter, the former born in Pike county, while the latter was born in Scotland. Her father was a farmer of Illinois for a number of years and in 1882 came to Nebraska, at which time he purchased land in Hamilton county where he made his home until his death. Mr. Potter passed away November 19, 1920, at the venerable age of seventy-nine. He was a democrat in his political views and both he and his wife were members of the United Brethren church. They had two children: William D., who is upon a farm near Aurora; and Mrs. Ronan. The latter was first married to John D. Cain, who was a prominent citizen of Aurora and who was born in Morgan county, Ohio, where his parents resided until he was ten years of age. His father served in the One Hundred and Sixty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war and lost his eyesight as the result of his military experience. John B. Cain, by reason of his father's affliction, had to assume the entire support of the family. He came to Hamilton county in 1882 and took charge of his father's homestead claim, whereon his father passed away. Mr. Cain served as county commissioner of Hamilton county and was also a member of the state legislature. He was interested in everything that pertained to the progress and prosperity of the community and the commonwealth and his aid was given to many measures for the general good. To him and his wife was born a daughter, Marietta, who is now living with Mr. and Mrs. Ronan. Mr. Ronan's sons, Ross I. and William E., joined Company H, the first company of Nebraska troops, and were trained at Deming, New Mexico, where they remained for a year and then went overseas, continuing in France from October until the spring of 1919.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Ronan are consistent Christian people, the former belonging to the Presbyterian church and the latter to the United Brethren church. He is also a Mason, having membership in lodge, chapter and council, and has filled all of the chairs in the lodge save that of master. Politically he is a democrat and has filled the office of chief of police in Aurora. He is now retired from all kinds of business, his success being made possible through his former industry and perseverance, his persistent labor and sound judgment bringing him a very gratifying measure of success.

MARTIN W. JAMES

Martin W. James, living in Aurora, has in recent years put aside the active duties of farm life and he and his wife now occupy an attractive home at 1219 Sixth street, where they are most pleasantly situated. Mr. James is one of the substantial citizens Ohio has furnished to Hamilton county. His birth occurred in Columbiana county, Ohio, January 5, 1845, his parents being John and Elizabeth Ann (Queen) James, who were also natives of the Buckeye state, where they resided until removing to Knox county, Illinois, where they settled at an early period



MR. AND MRS. MARTIN W. JAMES

in the development of that section of the country. The father followed farming there during the greater part of his life but worked as a switchman on the railroad during his last year on earth. He gave his early political support to the whig party but upon its dissolution joined the ranks of the new republican party and both he and his wife were members of the Christian church.

Martin W. James is the only surviving member in their family of five children. His educational opportunities were those afforded by the public school system of Knox county, Illinois, and in the spring of 1865, when about twenty years of age, he entered military service and remained with the Union army until honorably discharged the following fall. He was on duty in Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama. After the war he supplemented his early education by a term's study in Abingdon, Illinois.

The following year, or on the 22d of February, 1866, Mr. James was married to Miss Martha A. Brown, who was born in Franklin county, Indiana, a daughter of Henry and Amariah (Springsteel) Brown, both of whom were natives of Hamilton county, Ohio, and in early life became residents of Indiana, where they were reared and married. They afterward removed to Illinois and in that state the mother passed away in 1858. The father long survived her, his death occurring in Nebraska in 1901. Mr. and Mrs. James have become the parents of three children, but only one is living, Charles D., who is a farmer residing near Ericson, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. James have a grandson, Leslie James Alter, who was in the World war, serving as sergeant of Company M, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Infantry, Thirty-second Division. He was in France for one year and seven months and was badly wounded in the battle of Chateau Thierry, that important engagement which first turned the tide of battle and caused the German hordes to turn their faces toward their own country, toward which they were forced to continue their march until driven across the Rhine. Leslie James Alter was also at the peace commission from December until July, 1919, attending to military messenger service. His grandparents reared the boy, his mother having died when he was but thirteen months old.

Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. James continued residents of Knox county, Illinois, then moved to Iowa where they lived for fourteen years and in 1884 they came to Hamilton county and Mr. James purchased two hundred acres of land on which was a sod house, a granary and a stable. With characteristic energy he began the further development and improvement of the property and soon brought his fields under a high state of cultivation. He continued to reside upon that farm for nineteen years and annually gathered good crops as the reward of the care and labor which he bestowed upon the fields. He then sold his original place and purchased two hundred and sixty acres of land near Marquette, on which he lived for three years. At the end of that time he disposed of his second farm and in 1906 removed to Aurora. For a few years he continued to trade in land to some extent but has now retired altogether from business and he and his wife occupy a pleasant home at 1219 Sixth street. He was the possessor of four thousand dollars when he came to the county and was considered well off for those days. During his first season in Hamilton county he lost his crop by reason of a hail storm, but though at times difficulties and obstacles barred his path he nevertheless persevered and in the course of years won a substantial competence and desirable

success. Both Mr. and Mrs. James are members of the Christian church and he belongs also to the Grand Army of the Republic, having served as commander of the local post, while his wife is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps. Mr. James is a republican in his political views, having always stood loyally by that party which was the defense of the Union in the dark days of the Civil war and has always been the party of reform and progress. Mr. James and his wife celebrated their golden wedding on February 22, 1916.

D. W. DULAIGH, D. D. S.

Since 1903 Dr. D. W. Dulaigh has been prominent in dental circles of Sutton and Clay county. A native son of Nebraska, he was born in Dorchester, October 7, 1875, his parents being B. F. and Sarah (Denton) Dulaigh, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Illinois. Their marriage was celebrated in Illinois, where both had come as young people and there the father engaged in teaching school for a number of years. In 1874, however, they came to Nebraska and bought a homestead right. The father set about to improve the farm and as a result of his diligence and grim determination brought the land up to a high state of cultivation. For some time Mr. and Mrs. Dulaigh resided on the homestead and then retired from active farm life and removed to Dorchester, where they are still residing. Five children have been born to them, four of whom are living: Nora, who is the wife of William Baker, a farmer of Elm Creek; Cora, who is now Mrs. A. J. Britton and resides in Loveland, Colorado, where her husband is prominent in hardware circles; Ella, who is a widow and makes her home in Lincoln; and Dr. D. W., whose name initiates this review. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dulaigh are members of the United Brethren church and they are strong prohibitionists. Upon the outbreak of the Civil war Mr. Dulaigh was too young to enter active service but he drove a team throughout the period of the conflict, hauling supplies and other materials. He has been a very successful man and is still in possession of his original homestead.

Dr. D. W. Dulaigh received his education in the Dorchester schools and after teaching school for three years and deciding upon the dental profession as his life work, entered the dental department of the State University at Omaha, from which institution he was graduated with his degree in 1903. In that year he opened an office in Sutton and now has the distinction of being the oldest practicing dentist in Clay county. Every minute of his time is taken up by the demands of his profession and he has all the patronage he can ably manage.

In 1908 Dr. Dulaigh was united in marriage to Miss Frances Kleinschmidt, a native of Sutton and a daughter of August Kleinschmidt, a pioneer of Clay county. Dr. and Mrs. Dulaigh became parents of one child: Dwight Francis, four years of age. The death of Mrs. Dulaigh occurred on the 24th of December, 1920, and was an occasion of deep grief to her family and many friends.

In his political views Dr. Dulaigh is a stanch republican and is now serving on the city council. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church and fraternally he is a Mason. He is a Royal Arch Mason, a Shriner and has obtained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite. He is master of Evening

Star Lodge, No. 49. Dr. Dulaigh also holds membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is past noble grand of that lodge. Although the greater part of his time is devoted to his dental practice he buys and sells real estate as a side line and is in the possession of a splendid farm in Wyoming.

ALBERT J. MOGER

Albert J. Moger, now deceased, was for many years engaged in the implement business at Harvard. He was born in La Grange county, Indiana, April 3, 1851, and died on the 29th of July, 1920. His parents were Edward J. and Emaline A. (Buck) Moger, both natives of New York state. The grandfather of our subject was Jordan Moger and his wife was Phoebe Lyon, both of them being natives of Westchester county, New York. After their marriage the grandparents removed to New York city, where the grandfather became a member of the police force. He died there in 1829. Edward J. Moger was left an orphan at the age of twelve years and inherited forty acres of land in La Grange county, Indiana, which he commenced farming on his own account when reaching man's estate. He also became efficient in harness making and worked at that trade for a number of years. In 1848 Edward Moger was married and soon afterward left Indiana and located in Illinois, near Princeton, where he engaged in farming and worked at his trade. He was a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted in 1862 in the Union army, as a member of Company B, Ninety-third Illinois Infantry. He was taken ill at Camp Douglas, returned home and there remained until the 12th of December, when he again joined his regiment at Memphis, Tennessee. He was first in the quartermaster's department and later in the post office department, his sickness having incapacitated him for active military duty. On the 5th of July, 1865, he received his discharge at Detroit, Michigan, and returned to Illinois, where he accepted a clerkship in a general store, remaining in that connection until 1871. In the spring of that year Mr. Moger came to Clay county and took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Harvard township. During his first years on the homestead he passed through many hardships but being a man of strong determination and energy he allowed no obstacles to remain long in his path and as a result soon had his land in a high state of cultivation. He erected many outbuildings on the land, the improvements being above the average, and he became one of the leading and representative agriculturists of the county. From 1877 to 1890 he engaged in the practice of law with Judge John D. Hays, having offices at Harvard, but at the end of that time resumed his farming. He was one of the organizers of Clay county in 1871 and obtained the charter from the governor. In 1848 Edward Moger was united in marriage to Miss Emaline A. Buck, a daughter of Enoch and Betsy (Pittgrove) Buck, natives of New York state. They became the parents of six children: Albert J., whose name initiates this review; Phoebe E., who was born on the 31st of July, 1853; Walter E., born May 14, 1858; W. H., whose birth occurred on the 1st of March, 1860, and who died on the 1st of December, that same year; Mary O., whose natal day was November 17, 1861; and Edward, born April 15, 1866. After the death of his first wife Mr. Moger wedded Mrs. McCor-

mick, a widow. As a veteran of the Civil war Mr. Moger belonged to the Grand Army of the Republic and was active in the affairs of his local post. Both he and his wife were consistent members of the Congregational church. His death, which occurred May 7, 1896, came as a severe shock to the community in which he had so long resided and his passing took from Clay county another pioneer and representative citizen. A few years prior to his death Edward Moger had lived retired in Inland.

Albert Jordan Moger received his education in the schools of Dover, Illinois, and in 1871 came to Clay county with his parents. For many years he engaged in the implement business at Harvard and demonstrated his ability along that line by achieving more than a substantial amount of success.

In 1881 Mr. Moger was married to Miss Luella Kennedy, a native of McHenry county, Illinois, and a daughter of Andrew and Laura (Bostwick) Kennedy, both natives of Buffalo, who removed to Illinois at an early day. They both passed away in that state. Her father had resided in Harland county, Nebraska, for some years on a homestead, but subsequently disposed of it and returned to Illinois. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Moger four children were born: Emily Viola, who married Louis Mark and lives at Ravenna, where her husband is a railroad engineer and they have two sons, Edward and Dorr; Florence Olive, who is the wife of Harley Warner, a farmer of Clay county, and they have four children: Clayton, Edgar, Mary Lou Olive, and Wayne; Charles Jordan, farmer and the father of two daughters: Mildred May and Wilma; and Samuel Wayne, district county court clerk. Wayne served in the World war, having enlisted in the navy and serving throughout the entire conflict. He was the first Harvard boy to enter the navy and was presented with a handsome wrist watch by his fellow citizens of Harvard.

Throughout his life Mr. Moger was a stanch supporter of the republican party and of the principles for which it stands. At the time of his death he was clerk of the district court and his son, Samuel Wayne, succeeded him. His religious faith was that of the Congregational church, which organization he served as deacon for many years and his fraternal affiliations were with the Woodmen. He was always active in the development and improvement of the community and any movement for the furtherance of the general welfare was assured his undivided support. He was a stanch advocate of education and to that end served as president of the school board for five years. Mr. Moger was a man of great intellect and spent the greater part of his spare time in reading good books. His course was in accord with that of an honored and honorable ancestry and during his active and useful life he made wise use of his time, talents and opportunities.

ORSON SHAW

In section 29, Hamilton township, is the excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres which belongs to Orson Shaw, who is known as a successful agriculturist and sheep raiser and who has been a resident of Hamilton county since he was fourteen years of age. He is associated with his brother, Albert, in the ownership

of the farm which is his place of residence and is the old homestead obtained by his father in the autumn of 1886.

Orson Shaw was born in Lake county, Indiana, on the 3d of April, 1872, and is a son of Lemiah and Emeline (Davis) Shaw, who left the old Hoosier state and became pioneer settlers in Hamilton county, Nebraska, in the fall of 1886. Here the father purchased the farm of one hundred and sixty acres that is now the home of the subject of this sketch, and with the aid of the sons the place was reclaimed and developed into one of the valuable farms of Hamilton township, its buildings and other permanent improvements being of modern type. The father passed the closing period of his life in the village of Giltner, this county, where he died on the 15th of January, 1909, and where his widow passed away in November, 1918.

In the public schools of Indiana Orson Shaw gained his earlier education, which was supplemented by his attendance at the district schools after the family home had been established on the pioneer farm in Hamilton county, Nebraska. Here he gained at first hand a full experience in connection with development work and other activities on the home farm, and he was well qualified to assume, in 1893, the general management of the place which has continued to be the scene of his well ordered and successful enterprise as an agriculturist and stock raiser.

The year 1893 recorded the marriage of Mr. Shaw to Miss Ethel M. Salter, and they have five children: Nettie E., Hazel M., George C., Elton L. and Max. Mr. Shaw is independent in politics and supports men and measures rather than party and he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity. He has prospered with Hamilton county and is one of its loyal and appreciative citizens. Mr. Shaw had the distinction of being a passenger on the first passenger train to enter the present village of Giltner.

JOHN BRENNEMAN

John Brenneman, who has devoted practically all of his active life to farming, is now living retired in Harvard, where he moved in 1917. A native of Ohio, he was born July 16, 1848, a son of Martin and Mary (Garman) Brenneman, both natives of Pennsylvania. His parents removed to Ohio at an early day where they met and were married, soon after that event going to Illinois where they arrived in 1856. The father engaged in farming there, owning some fine land and passed away at the advanced age of ninety-five years. Mrs. Brenneman died at the age of seventy-six. Mr. Brenneman was twice married and was the father of eight children, seven of whom are living: Mary, who is the wife of James Lewis, a retired farmer residing in Kansas; John, whose name initiates this review; George, who is retired at the age of seventy years and is residing in Chillicothe, Missouri; Martin, sixty-six years of age, who is residing in Hastings; Margaret, who is the wife of L. H. Kaufman, a retired farmer; Hattie, the widow of William Stockham, and a resident of Aurora; and Daniel, aged fifty-one years and a resident of Princeton, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Brenneman were consistent members of the Lutheran church and he was a stanch democrat. He was active in all movements for the development and improvement of the community and for some time was road overseer in Illinois.

John Brenneman is indebted to the common schools of Illinois for his education and after putting his textbooks aside he began farming with his father. In June, 1884, however, he came to Nebraska, located in Clay county and purchased a quarter section of fine land. His family did not come out with him but he sent for them in October of that year. He brought the land to a highly cultivated state and was soon acknowledged a leading and successful farmer in the county. He resided on the farm until 1917 when he removed to Harvard and retired.

In 1874 occurred the marriage of Mr. Brenneman and Miss Emily Louise Rogers, who was born in Davenport, England, on the 7th of January, 1855. Her parents were John and Emma Louise (Collins) Rogers. After coming to the United States Mr. and Mrs. Rogers settled in Iowa City, Iowa, in 1856, where the father rented land on which he lived until his death. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, five of whom are living: Mrs. Brenneman; Robert, of Iowa City, Iowa; Will, a farmer of Iowa; Hattie Douglas, of Lyons, Colorado; and Mary Douglas, who lives in Iowa. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Brenneman nine children have been born: Harry P., who works for the Standard Oil Company at Harvard; Daniel Robert, who is working on the railroad at Deadwood, South Dakota; Bertha, who is the wife of Robert H. Hafeloh, a farmer of Clay county; Charles W., who is engaged in farming northeast of Harvard; Florence Hafeloh, who is living on a farm in Clay county; Arthur, residing on his father's farm; Roy, farming in Clay county; Myrtle, who is the wife of Ira D. Kershnier of Wyoming; and Irvin. Irvin entered the navy in 1917 and was in active service for two years. He made trips to Cuba and through the Panama Canal to California. He is now making his home with his parents and is an employe of the Lincoln Telephone Company. Ira Kershnier was also in active service, having been in France and Germany for a period of two years. Mr. Kershnier is the owner of a six hundred and forty acre homestead in Wyoming and is one of the leading ranchmen of his community.

Mr. Brenneman follows an independent course in politics and his wife is a consistent member of the Baptist church. Following for many years agricultural pursuits he labored hard and faithfully and is well entitled to the rest from hard work which he is now enjoying. He is widely known throughout the community and is greatly respected by all who are acquainted with him.

WILLIAM P. GRIESS

William P. Griess, a well known lumberman of Sutton, was born on a farm in Clay county, March 23, 1878. His education was completed in the high school of Sutton and he started out to provide for his own support as a clerk in the employ of L. H. Schaaf, with whom he continued for seven and a half years. In 1901 he embarked in business on his own account by establishing a general store, including a line of hardware. He continued in that business until July 1, 1913, when he disposed of his stock and went to Lewis, Iowa, where he conducted a store for his brother-in-law for eight months. In May, 1914, he returned to Sutton. Here on the 22d of January, 1915, he purchased the clothing store of Rath & Fleming, which

he conducted from 1915 until 1920, when he disposed of the store to M. E. Fleming. Mr. Griess then took over his father's coal business, which he conducted for two years, and on the 1st of July, 1919, he and his brother Albert bought out the Sutton Lumber Company. He now conducts a general lumber-yard and also handles coal and has developed the business to gratifying proportions.

On the 6th of December, 1900, Mr. Griess was married to Miss Wilhelmina Nuss, a native of Russia and a daughter of Fred Nuss, who came to Clay county in 1875. Here he purchased land, which he cultivated throughout his remaining days, his death occurring on the home farm. Mr. and Mrs. Griess have become parents of three children: Rudolph K., Hubert W. and Talitha Sophia, all now in school. The parents are members of the First Reformed church and in politics Mr. Griess is a democrat but has never been an aspirant for office, devoting his entire attention to the lumber business, which he has carefully and wisely managed and which is bringing to him a substantial return.

JOHN H. ALLBEE

John H. Allbee, an honored veteran of the Civil war and for many years prominent in the agricultural circles of Clay and Nuckolls county, is now living retired in Harvard, enjoying the rewards of a life spent in diligence and industry. A native of Maine, he was born in Somerset county on the 13th of April, 1845, a son of Henry P. and Louisa (Hutchins) Allbee, both natives of that state. The grandparents of John H. Allbee were John and Betsy (Rhines) Allbee, natives of Maine, where they lived all their lives and his grandfather was a veteran of the War of 1812. Henry P. Allbee went to Illinois in 1848, where he rented land and engaged in farming until his death. His widow then came to Nebraska and made her home with a son at Fairfield until her demise. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Allbee, John H. being the third in order of birth and the only one living. Both were consistent members of the Free Will Baptist church and the father gave his political allegiance to the republican party.

John H. Allbee received his education in Livingston county, Illinois, and entered the Union army from the eighth grade. He joined Company M, First Illinois Light Artillery in 1864 and participated in many of the great battles of that conflict. He was in active service from the battle of Kenesaw Mountain to the Atlanta campaign, after which his battery was sent to Cleveland, Tennessee. Mr. Allbee has a complete history of his company in book form that is very interesting. After the close of the conflict he returned to Illinois and engaged in farming there until 1874, when he came to Clay county. He purchased a quarter section of railroad land and later bought a homestead right. He improved the land, bought a tree claim, later selling both and in 1891 moved to Nuckolls county. For four years he farmed there and then returned to Clay county, where he resided on rented land until he removed to Harvard in 1900. For some time Mr. Allbee followed the carpenter's trade, also painting, but he is now retired from any kind of business life.

On the 6th of March, 1869, occurred the marriage of Mr. Allbee and Miss Celia

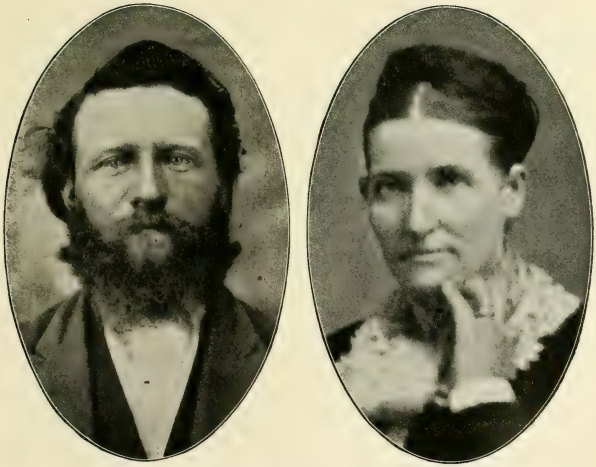
Thatcher, a native of La Salle county, Illinois, where her birth occurred in August, 1846. Her parents were Enos and Charlotte (Torrey) Thatcher, both natives of Pennsylvania, who removed to Illinois in the early '30s. The death of the father occurred in Illinois but the mother passed away in Nebraska. Two children were born to that union: George W., who is in the employ of the Grand Army of the Republic at Great Bend, Kansas; and Mrs. Allbee. Mr. and Mrs. Thatcher were consistent members of the Congregational church and active in the interests of the community. Mr. and Mrs. Allbee have become parents of six children, five of whom are living: George Ray, who is janitor of the schoolhouse at Harvard, is married and has a son, Ernest, who was in active service in the World war for nineteen months; Marcia May, who is the wife of Willis Jones, a carpenter of Bethany, Nebraska; Emma Ruth, who taught school for twelve years in Clay county and is now the wife of Oscar Warp, who was county superintendent of Kearney county for some time but is now residing at Menden; Lena Gertrude, who is the wife of Harry Strine, a farmer of Clay county; and Verdie Agnes, the wife of Leighton C. Newcomb who is the owner of a large fruit ranch at Santa Cruz.

Mr. Allbee is a strong prohibitionist, was one of the first in the state and is a consistent member of the Christian church. He has been elder of that church for years and for fifty years has been a teacher in the Sunday school. He is one of the valued citizens of the town and is popular in all circles in which he moves.

THOMAS D. SHAW

Since 1870 Thomas D. Shaw has been identified with the farming interests of Clay county. He was born in Hancock county, Ohio, February 22, 1845, a son of Lewis and Marguerite (Downing) Shaw, the former a well known and successful farmer.

When a small boy Thomas D. Shaw removed to Illinois with his parents and received his education in the country schools of that state, walking a distance of four miles to school. He attended school only three months out of the year, spending the remainder of the time assisting his father on the home place. When he was twenty-four years of age he left the parental roof and for one year worked out on farms for wages of twenty-five dollars per month. In 1870 he came to Clay county, driving through in a covered wagon, and took up a homestead. It took one month to make the trip from Illinois to Nebraska, and Mr. Shaw endured many hardships on the way. He crossed both the Mississippi and Missouri rivers on ferry boats. His homestead consisted of one hundred and sixty acres, on which stood only the most primitive of structures. Obtaining logs from the Blue river he set about to build a home and had the first shingle roof and board floor in Clay county. He dug a well thirteen feet deep, but secured the greater part of his water from the river. Provisions had to be brought from Beatrice, at which place most of the trading for that section of the country was done, and those trips necessitated several days' absence from the homestead. He planted an orchard in 1872, which was killed in the blizzard of the following year and he also lost eight head of cattle in that



MR. AND MRS. THOMAS D. SHAW

storm. This latter misfortune was the result of having no place to house his cattle, the barn having been burnt to the ground a few days previous. The grasshopper storm of 1874 destroyed forty acres of his corn. There were many friendly Indians in the vicinity of the homestead who often stopped at the ranch while on their hunting trips, and elk and antelopes were numerous. Mr. Shaw recalls having seen over one thousand antelopes near his home at one time.

In 1869 occurred the marriage of Mr. Shaw and Miss Margaret Johnston, a native of Pennsylvania, who removed with her parents to Iowa, later to Illinois and subsequently to Nebraska with her husband. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Shaw: Lewis, a farmer of Clay county; Jennie, the wife of Peter Kneu, a retired farmer of Edgar; and James H., at home.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Shaw the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party, in the principles of which he has firm belief. The religious faith of the family is that of the Christian church. Mr. Shaw has always been a stanch advocate of education, helped organize district schools and served on the board of directors for many years. For some time he likewise served on the county board, being a member of that board when the county seat was moved from Sutton to Clay Center. Mr. Shaw has resided on his homestead since 1870, with the exception of three years which he spent in Nuckolls county. He now owns four hundred and thiry-four acres of valuable farm property with two sets of fine improvements. He has followed farming along scientific lines and is recognized as a successful and progressive agriculturist. He is one of the old pioneers of Clay county, having resided there for fifty-one years, a representative citizen and one of whom any community would be proud.

EDWIN P. FIELD

Edwin P. Field, who passed away on the 26th of June, 1908, was a veteran of the Civil war and throughout his entire life was thoroughly loyal to his country, displaying the same fidelity to public interests in times of peace as he did in days of war when he marched with the "boys in blue" on the battle fields of the south. He was born in Ontario county, New York, May 7, 1840, and had therefore reached the age of sixty-eight years when called to his final rest. He spent his youthful days in his native county and pursued his education in the public schools there. In young manhood he went to Wisconsin on a visit and at Madison enlisted for service in the Union army when twenty-one years of age, remaining for three years as a member of Company H, Sixth Wisconsin Infantry. He was wounded in battle in Virginia and participated in many of the hotly contested battles of the war.

When the country no longer needed his military aid Mr. Field returned to Wisconsin and on leaving that state removed to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, while in 1872 he arrived in Hamilton county, Nebraska, to make his future home here. He first entered a claim and while developing and improving his property occupied a sod house for eight years, after which he replaced this primitive dwelling by a frame house. He continued on the homestead until 1880, when he removed to

Aurora where his remaining days were spent, and where Mrs. Field still makes her home. He sold the homestead before locating in the city and in Aurora gave his attention to carpenter work and was also foreman on the railroad for a time, always leading a busy and useful life. To Mr. and Mrs. Field were born three children, two of whom are living, the elder being Professor P. A. Field who was born in 1876 and was graduated from the Aurora high school and the Union Theological College, after which he preached for eight years and is now principal of an Indian school at Allen, South Dakota. He is married and has two children, the daughter, Rose Field, became the wife of A. G. Anderson, owner of a large ranch in Carbon county, Wyoming, and they now make their home in Loveland, Colorado, in order to educate their children who are four in number. Mrs. Field in 1918, notwithstanding her advanced age, took up a homestead of three hundred and twenty acres in Wyoming and she proved up on the property to which she secured title in the spring of 1921. This land is situated in Carbon county.

Mr. Field was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and his political belief was that of the republican party. Mrs. Field calls Aurora her home although she has spent some time on her Wyoming claim in order to secure title thereto. She is a woman of many splendid qualities and of excellent business ability and she enjoys in notable measure the warm regard and esteem of all who know her.

MRS. CHRISTINA HOEGREN

In section 9 of Monroe township, Hamilton county, is found the attractive farm home of Mrs. Hoegren, who, with her husband, gained pioneer experience by establishing their home in this county in the year 1879. Thereafter they were absent from the county a number of years, but eventually resumed their residence in Hamilton county, where they now own a well improved and valuable farm property of three hundred and eighty acres, the house and other buildings on the homestead being of modern and attractive order. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hoegren claim Sweden as the place of their nativity, the former having been twenty-one years of age when he came to the United States and Mrs. Hoegren having crossed the Atlantic to this country when thirty-two years of age, in 1871, that year having recorded her marriage, which occurred in the city of Chicago, shortly after the historic fire that devastated much of the great western metropolis of the present day. In Chicago Mr. Hoegren was engaged in the manufacture of glove-fasteners and there he and his wife remained until 1879, when they came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where Aurora, the county seat, was represented by one store and a few other buildings. After remaining a few months on a pioneer farm Mr. and Mrs. Hoegren established their residence at Aurora, where they remained thirteen years. Thereafter they resided for some time in the city of Chicago, but Mrs. Hoegren has had much satisfaction in finally resuming her residence on one of the farms of Hamilton county, where fine improvements and modern facilities are in distinct contrast to the little frame shanty in which she lived during the initial period of her residence in the county, when settlers were few and far separated from each

other. Mrs. Hoegren is an earnest communicant of the Lutheran church and she has made her pleasant farm home a center of generous hospitality, her sons Oscar and Victor being with her on the farm and having the active management of the same, while the eldest of the three children is Albert, who resides in the city of Chicago.

CHARLES T. TORGERSON

Charles T. Torgerson dates his residence in Hamilton county since 1878. He arrived here practically empty handed but he had heard the call of the west and had resolved to embrace the opportunities here offered. As the years have passed on he has not only overcome the difficulties and obstacles incident to pioneer life but also those which feature in business, and by reason of his close application, his unfaltering purpose and his honorable dealings he has become one of the prosperous farmers in this section of the state and is now living retired in Aurora. He was born in Wisconsin, June 5, 1853, his parents being Ole and Sarah (Stromme) Torgerson, both of whom were natives of Norway and became residents of Wisconsin in early life. There was but one log cabin in Madison, Wisconsin, when Mr. Torgerson arrived in that state and he was without funds but possessed a stout heart and willing hand and these stood him in stead of capital. As the years passed he prospered and became the owner of four hundred acres of valuable land in the Badger state. Both he and his wife spent their last days in Madison and all who knew them bore testimony to their sterling worth of character. They were consistent members of the Presbyterian church, guiding their lives at all times by its teachings and by the highest moral standard. In politics Mr. Torgerson was a republican and his fellow townsmen, appreciative of his worth and ability, called him to represent them in the state legislature. He also served at one time as warden of the state penitentiary of Wisconsin. To him and his wife were born eleven children seven of whom are living: Salina, the widow of Abraham Tweten, and a resident of Seattle, Washington; Charles T.; Callie, the wife of Mr. Stenchland, of Madison, Wisconsin. Louise, also living in Madison; Willie, a retired farmer living in Minnesota; Mrs. Tillie Wold, of Madison, Wisconsin; and Mrs. Martha Minor, whose home is in California. They are consistent members of the Presbyterian church.

While spending his youthful days under the parental roof Charles T. Torgerson attended the district schools near his father's home. He worked in the fields through vacation periods and after his textbooks were put aside began farming in Wisconsin, where he resided until 1878 and then came to Hamilton county, Nebraska. Here he purchased railroad land and school land and began life in this state in a little sod house such as was typical of the frontier at that period. He had a wife and two children when he reached Hamilton county and his cash capital consisted of but twenty dollars.

It was while residing in Wisconsin that Mr. Torgerson was married in 1875 to Miss Jane Gullekson, who was born in Wisconsin, June 16, 1853, a daughter of Gullek and Julia (Peterson) Gullekson, both of whom were natives of Norway. Her father was but fourteen years of age when he crossed the Atlantic and took

up his abode in the Badger state, while Mrs. Gullekson was a little maiden of eleven summers when making the long voyage across the briny deep. He devoted his life to farming and both he and his wife passed away in Wisconsin. Their family numbered eleven children eight of whom are living, Mrs. Torgerson being the eldest. Both the father and mother were consistent members of the Lutheran church and through the long years of their residence in Wisconsin they gained the warm regard and high esteem of all who knew them.

To Mr. and Mrs. Torgerson were born eight children, five of whom survive: Mrs. Mary Boyd, who is living on a farm in Hamilton county and who by her marriage has become the mother of seven children; O. Gilman, a farmer residing near Giltner, who is married and has five children; George, who also follows farming near Giltner and has a wife and four children; Elliott, who is living on the old home place and is married and has three children; and Clarence, who is in New Mexico. He was drafted for service while attending college in Missouri during the World war and was stationed at Camp Funston. Following the war he was graduated from Parksville College in Missouri.

Mr. Torgerson, in 1920, purchased a nice home in Aurora and retired from active business. He had become the owner of a half section of valuable and productive land and before retiring sold a portion of this but still owns a quarter section. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen and of the Degree of Honor, while his political endorsement is given to the republican party and in religious faith he and his wife are Presbyterians. They are widely known, enjoying the confidence and goodwill of many friends and Nebraska has found in them valued citizens during their long residence in Hamilton county.

E. C. PURDY

Since 1883 E. C. Purdy has been a citizen of Hamilton county and in this time has risen to the foremost ranks in the agricultural and business circles of the county. A native of Connecticut his birth occurred in North Greenwich county, June 15, 1854, a son of Elias and Esther A. (Clowes) Purdy, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of New York. Elias Purdy was a successful farmer and a well known and respected citizen of the community in which he made his home.

E. C. Purdy received his education in the common schools of Illinois, where he came in 1867 and he worked on farms in the summer, engaging in teaching school during the winter months. He then engaged in farming for himself, renting land in that state on which he resided for a period of five years, at the termination of which time he came to Nebraska, settling in Hamilton county in 1883. In 1875 he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, at that time being but nineteen years of age, for which he paid four dollars an acre and on which he built a small frame house, a board stable and otherwise improved. He made his journey to this country by railroad as far as Aurora, bringing with him two horses and four cows. His land which was then but a prairie he broke himself, with the exception of a number of acres. He cultivated this land for some time

and then entered the grain elevator business when the Farmers Alliance was organized. He then had charge of the grain elevator, engaged for some time in the coal business and for seven years was manager of the T. B. Hoard Elevator Company at Phillips. In 1911 he retired from active business life and returned to the farm. He has planted many shade trees, evergreens and a fine orchard. Not only has he been prominent in agricultural and business circles but he served his fellow citizens in the capacity of justice of the peace for several years.

Mr. Purdy has been twice married, his first marriage occurring at Brooklyn, New York, when he was wedded to Clara A. Purdy. To this union five children were born: Lillian, who died in October, 1918; Rolla, who is residing in Giltner, Nebraska; Frank, of Phillips; Hattie, who is the wife of T. J. Baker of Grand Island, Nebraska; and Clarence, who is residing in Greeley county, Nebraska. Some time after the death of his first wife Mr. Purdy was again wed, this time taking as his wife Sadie A. Border and to this union seven children have been born: Charles, who is living in Geneva, Nebraska; Everett, attending college at York; Howard, at home; Myrtle, who is teaching school in the Pleasant Hill district; and Raymond and Alvin, at home. Eva England died in October, 1918.

In politics Mr. Purdy is an independent voter, giving his support to the man he thinks best fitted for the office, regardless of party principles. He is fraternally identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, having been clerk of this lodge for years and he and his family are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The history of the northwest is largely familiar to Mr. Purdy, as he has been a witness of much of its growth and development and at all times has stood for that which is best and most progressive in the business life of the community and in the advancement of its moral, intellectual and social interests.

JAMES W. TURNER

James W. Turner is numbered among the enterprising business men of Harvard, where he is engaged in blacksmithing. In this connection he has developed a good business, his enterprise and reliable methods gaining for him a liberal patronage. He was born in Kalamazoo county, Michigan, on the 13th of March, 1857, a son of Henry and Marie (Blanchard) Turner, the former a native of Genesee county, New York, while the latter was also born in that state. Their marriage occurred in Michigan, where both had come as children in 1832, and in that state the father engaged in farming, later carpentering and shoemaking, for a number of years. In 1879 he removed to Nebraska, locating in Hamilton county, where he purchased a half section of land and lived thereon until he moved into Harvard, where both he and his wife passed away. He was in possession of a quarter section of land at the time of his demise, having disposed of the other quarter some time before. Four children were born to that union, James W. being the youngest member of the family and the only one living. Throughout his life Henry Turner was a stanch supporter of the democratic party and both he and his wife were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In the acquirement of an education James W. Turner attended the schools of

Kalamazoo, Michigan, and lived with his parents on the home farm. At the age of fifteen years he learned the blacksmith's trade, followed that line of work during the winter months and did carpenter work in the summer. In 1879 he came to Nebraska and bought eighty acres of school land in Hamilton county, which he brought to a high state of cultivation and upon which he resided until 1896, when he removed to Eldorado. He had a blacksmith shop on his farm but decided that a town would be the best place for the conduct of the latter business. He therefore, upon removing to Eldorado, built a shop, the funds for this venture having been realized from the sale of his farm, and for three years he was one of the most successful blacksmiths in the surrounding country. In 1899, however, he removed to Harvard, worked out by the day for two years and then bought another blacksmith shop, in the conduct of which he is still active.

In September, 1878, Mr. Turner was united in marriage to Miss Pearly Smith, a daughter of M. E. and Sarah A. (Stone) Smith, both natives of New York state, who came to Michigan about 1873. Her father was a carpenter and joiner and made his home in Michigan until his demise. Five children have been born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Turner, three of whom are living: Charles, who is residing on a farm in Hamilton county; Frank E., of whom further mention is made on another page of this work; and Jessie Mabel, who is a registered nurse of Detroit, Michigan.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Turner the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party and the principles for which it stands. For eight years he was a member of the city council. Although the greater part of Mr. Turner's time is devoted to his blacksmith business he is also interested in the agricultural development of the state as the owner of eighty acres in Hamilton county.

EDWIN CUNDALL

Farming interests formerly claimed the attention of Edwin Cundall, but at the present time he is living retired, enjoying in well earned rest the fruits of his former toil. He now makes his home in Sutton, which is far distant from the place of his birth, for he was born in Lincolnshire, England, July 29, 1850, his parents being Richard and Mary (Sales) Cundall, who were also natives of that country and came to the new world in 1872, settling in Cleveland, Ohio. The father, who followed farming throughout his life, came to Clay county in 1876 and bought up a homesteader's right to eighty acres, his first dwelling being partly a sod house and partly a dugout, but later he built a more modern frame dwelling on his land. He continued to occupy the old homestead until he retired to a place near the village of Sutton, and several years later he passed away. His widow afterward passed away in Sutton. They were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Cundall always voted with the republican party, believing that the principles of the party contained the best elements of good citizenship. To him and his wife were born ten children, of whom four are living: Joseph, who follows farming in Boulder county, Colorado; Edwin; Charles, who resides in Cleveland, Ohio; and Harry, who is living retired in Denver, Colorado.

Edwin Cundall was educated in the schools of England and started out to provide for his own support by working on a farm. He has depended entirely upon his own resources for a living from the age of twelve years. In 1873, when a young man of twenty-three years, he arrived in Fillmore county, Nebraska, and there homesteaded, living in a sod house. For a time he kept bachelor's hall, but on the 18th of May, 1879, was united in marriage to Miss Lydia Benedict, who was born in Magnolia, Wisconsin, a daughter of William Case and Delia (Lewis) Benedict. Her father was born in Canada and removed from Wisconsin to Iowa, while in 1872 he settled in Fillmore county, Nebraska, and there obtained a homestead claim. He worked on a railroad, assisting in the building of the line, and thus provided some ready money with which to aid him in the development of his farm. To him and his wife were born five children, of whom but two are living, Mrs. Cundall and Edith Elmira Cunningham. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which Mr. Benedict also belonged, and he was a Civil war veteran, enlisting from Wisconsin in defense of the Union.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Cundall has been blessed with nine children: Harry, a farmer residing in Elyria, Nebraska; Will, a farmer whose home is at Ord, Nebraska; Cora, at home; Arthur, a resident farmer of Fillmore county, Nebraska; Mary; Clayton, a dentist located at Gothenburg, Nebraska; Maude, the wife of A. C. McDonald, who occupies a farm in Clay county; Myrtle, the wife of Carl Grosshans, a resident farmer of Clay county; and Robert Edwin, at home. Clayton Cundall was in the first draft and was sent to Camp Funston, following America's entrance into the World war. Later he was transferred to Leavenworth, Kansas, where he was discharged in 1918. He did dental work while in the army.

Mr. and Mrs. Cundall are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church and his political belief is that of the democratic party. He served for several years on the school board and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion and one whose labors have been effective in supporting the best educational interests of the county. In 1911 he removed with his family to Sutton and purchased a home, which he remodeled and has made an attractive residence. He is the owner of five hundred and thirty acres of well improved land that he has gained through his own efforts, his life being one of industry and well directed thrift.

GUST JOHNSON

Gust Johnson is a retired farmer living in Sutton, who came alone to the United States when but twelve years of age. He was born in Sweden in June, 1861, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson, having died, however, when he was an infant, so that he knows nothing of them. He was reared by an uncle and aunt, Andrew and Margaret Johnson, and his youthful days were those of the farm bred boy. He was the youngest in a family of seven children, all of whom have passed away with the exception of Mr. Johnson. When a lad of but eleven years he came alone to the new world and settled first in Jamestown, New York, where he lived with his sister and two brothers. He was educated there and remained in that city until he was eighteen years of age. He then came to Henry county, Illinois, and worked in a

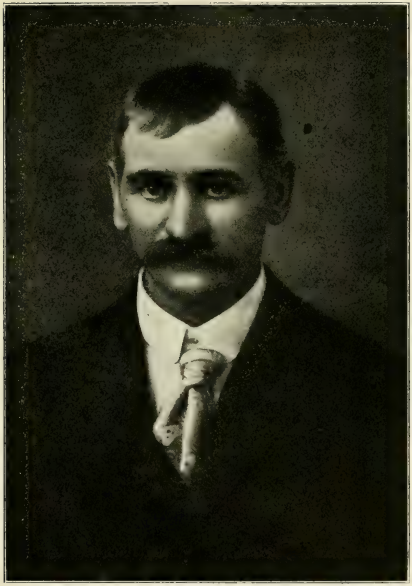
coal mine, while later he cultivated a tract of rented land. It was in the year 1886 that he arrived in Clay county, Nebraska, where he again rented land for a number of years. From 1888 to 1890 he was in Colorado, where he farmed his own land for two years and preempted and took a timber claim. Later he purchased eighty acres in Clay county, of which he became owner in 1906. In addition he also owns five acres in the outskirts of Sutton. Year after year he carefully tilled his fields and gathered his crops and his capable management and unfaltering diligence brought to him the success that now enables him to live retired, for in 1918 he put aside the active work of the farm and removed to Sutton.

On the 1st of January, 1884, Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Augusta Cole, who was born in Sweden and came alone to the United States when seventeen years of age, making her way to Illinois where she did housework prior to her marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been born four children: Roy, a resident farmer of Clay county; Stella, the wife of Ira Corey, a farmer of Blackfoot, Idaho; Mildred, the wife of John Kessler, residing on her father's farm; and Mabel, the wife of Guy Trudson, who is farming in Clay county. The parents occupy an attractive home in Sutton, situated in the midst of his five acre tract of land and Mr. Johnson is now conducting a dairy business. He has made a success of life, his diligence and enterprise constituting the basic forces of his present prosperity. Politically he is a democrat and religiously a Congregationalist, both he and his wife belonging to the church, in the work of which they take an active and helpful interest.

JAMES WRIGHT

One of the well-to-do and respected citizens of Hamilton county who has well performed his part in developing this great state is James Wright, who is now making his home on fine improved land in that county. A native of Grant county, Wisconsin, he was born there July 6, 1853, a son of Adglin and Sarah (Bollenbaugh) Wright.

James Wright received his education in the country schools of Wisconsin and assisted his father in farming the home place. In 1872 he came to Hamilton county with his parents, driving through with three teams of oxen, leaving Wisconsin early in the spring and arriving in Hamilton county the first of July. They also drove forty head of cattle through. James Wright bought a homestead right and timber claim of eighty acres, this original purchase being a part of the tract on which he is now residing. He has added more land from time to time, however, until he now owns two hundred and forty acres, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation solely through his own efforts. His first home on this land was of sod and he built a stable of straw. His provisions he hauled from Grand Island and he took his wheat to a mill on Blue river, this trip requiring one day each way. Deer and antelopes were numerous throughout the community and he has killed many of these animals. He also remembers having seen many buffalo stragglers. After putting this place into good shape he removed to Grant county, Nebraska, and there lived for twenty-eight years, engaging in stock raising and achieving a great amount of success. James Wright, in connection with his



JAMES WRIGHT



brother and sons, is in possession of almost one entire township in Grant county. They use that land for running their cattle. In 1917, however, Mr. Wright returned to his original home place in Hamilton county and is there residing, an active and leading agriculturist of his section of the country.

Mr. Wright has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Lydia Sorrels, who is now deceased. She was the mother of four children: Benjamin, who is residing on the Grant county ranch; Charles, also residing on the Grant county ranch; and Aaron and Ajolon, who were twins. Aaron is assisting his brothers in farming the Grant county ranch and Ajolon is deceased. By Mr. Wright's second marriage, his wife being formerly Miss Anna Donabrook, he has two children: Margaret and Minnie, both living at home.

Fraternally Mr. Wright is identified with the Masons, which order he is serving as master. He has always been active in any movement he deemed of value to the improvement and development of the county and state and he served his fellow citizens as road supervisor for many years. Mr. Wright has reached his present position of prosperity and prominence in the community solely through his own efforts. By grim determination and energy he overcame all of the early pioneer hardships and is now recognized among the successful and leading agriculturists of the county and state.

M. J. McDERMOTT

While M. J. McDermott devoted many years to farming and by reason of his careful management and capability won success, he has now put aside the more active work of the fields and is living retired in Sutton. He came to Nebraska from Illinois, his birth having occurred in Peoria county, that state, December 21, 1857, his parents being Bernard and Ann (Cosgrove) McDermott, who were natives of County Tyrone, Ireland, where they were reared and married. They came to the United States in 1853 and for about two years resided in New York, after which they removed westward to Peoria county, Illinois. The father there rented a farm, which he cultivated for a number of years and in 1885 he came to Sutton, Nebraska, with his family. The mother passed away in Sutton in 1904, at the age of seventy years. The father moved to Omaha in 1904 and died March 9, 1921, at the age of eighty-nine years. He was a Catholic in religious faith and a democrat in his political views. To him and his wife were born thirteen children, of whom six are living: Anna, unmarried, a resident of Omaha; Matilda, the wife of Ed Quinn, a contractor of St. Joseph, Missouri; Louisa, unmarried, who is a teacher in the schools of San Francisco, California; Mary, the wife of Clayton Lerch, who is engaged in the automobile business in Oakland, California; and Josephine, who for twenty years has been a stenographer with C. B. Liver & Company of Omaha.

M. J. McDermott pursued his education in the schools of his native state and when his textbooks were put aside started out to engage in farming. He is today the owner of a large amount of land in Clay county, which he acquired through his own efforts. In former years he engaged extensively in raising and feeding stock, making this an important branch of his work while on the farm. Year by year he

diligently cultivated his fields and his industry and careful management brought a most gratifying return. In 1891 he removed to Sutton, but continued to engage in the live stock business until 1903, when he retired and has since spent his days in the enjoyment of well earned rest.

In 1902 Mr. McDermott was married to Miss Ruby Anderson, who was born in Wayne county, Iowa, in 1875, a daughter of Sylvester S. and Hannah (Clark) Anderson, natives of Ripley county, Indiana. They first went to Illinois and thence to Iowa, where the mother passed away, while the father afterward became a resident of Friend, Nebraska, where his death occurred on January 12, 1916. In the family of that worthy couple were eight children, of whom six are living: Ida, the wife of George Winders, a retired farmer living at Friend, Nebraska; Mary, the wife of D. McKinzie, a farmer of Park City, Montana; Kate, the wife of W. Kleespie, a farmer of Park City, Montana; Richard, who is engaged in farming at Albany, Illinois; Mrs. McDermott of Sutton; and Sylvester, who follows farming at Park City, Montana. Her parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. McDermott had sixteen relatives who gave their lives to the country in the Civil war. Her mother lost two brothers and the father had four brothers in the Civil war and lost one brother in Andersonville prison. Mrs. McDermott is a graduate of the Sutton high school and for five years taught school in Clay and Fillmore counties. She also attended the Fremont Normal and is a lady of liberal education and wide culture.

Mr. and Mrs. McDermott have become parents of two daughters: Genevieve, who died in 1920, at the age of fourteen years; and Mary Josephine, in school. Both Mr. and Mrs. McDermott are members of the Degree of Honor and Mrs. McDermott is a member of the P. E. O. Sisterhood. He formerly gave his political allegiance to the republican party, but since 1896 has voted with the democratic party. He was a member of the county board of supervisors for three terms and served as its chairman for one term. He likewise filled the office of mayor of Sutton for five terms, his many reelections being indisputable proof of his capability, fidelity and the confidence reposed in him. He was elected first in the spring of 1903 and was then again and again called to the office. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church, while his wife is a consistent member of the Congregational church. His life has indeed been a busy and useful one and his course indicates what can be accomplished when energy and enterprise lead the way. In the early days he rented land until he was able to buy a half section on time and thus he made his start toward the goal of prosperity, which he has long since reached.

DAVID KLINE

David Kline, who for twenty-three years has been a railroad employe and throughout this period has made his home in Aurora, was born in Independence, Missouri, December 24, 1859, a son of William and Mary (O'Neil) Kline, the former a native of Ohio, while the latter was born in Wisconsin, in which state their marriage occurred. Removing westward to Missouri they lived for a short time in that state and then returned to Wisconsin, where both passed away, the

father owning and cultivating a farm in that state. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while both were consistent Christian people, his membership being in the Christian church while his wife belonged to the United Brethren church. In politics he was a democrat but without ambition to hold office. In their family were four children, two of whom are living: Luella, the wife of Clint Allen, of Freeport, Illinois; and David.

The latter obtained his education in the public schools of Green county, Wisconsin, where he was reared to the occupation of farming and from early manhood his attention was given to the task of tilling the soil. In 1882 he became a resident of Hamilton county and purchased forty acres of land, thus making his start amid new surroundings. In 1885 he carried the mail between Aurora and Sutton for one year. When he arrived here he had but two dollars in money, a horse and two cows. He borrowed the money necessary to make the first payment on his land and for some time the family occupied a little frame dwelling to which Mr. Kline added modern improvements and equipments as the years passed and his financial resources increased. For fourteen years his attention was successfully given to general farming and in 1896 he removed to Aurora, where he became connected with railroad service and for twenty-three years he has been with the Burlington Railroad Company. On the 19th of September, 1919, however, he sustained an injury for which he is now taking treatment.

Mr. and Mrs. Kline occupy a pleasant home at No. 704 Ninth street. It was on the 1st of January, 1882, that Mr. Kline wedded Ada Nichols, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Asa and Rosella (Nyles) Nichols, who were natives of New York and Ohio, respectively. In an early day they removed to Illinois and Mr. Nichols did his trading in Chicago, which at that time was but a comparatively small town. He belonged to the Unitarian church while his wife was a member of the United Brethren church and his political endorsement was given to the democratic party. After living for a number of years in Illinois he removed to Wisconsin, where he owned several large farms. In 1882 he became a resident of Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he had three hundred and twenty acres of good land. He was numbered among the substantial citizens of this part of the state and his success was the direct outcome of his persistency, capability and sound business judgment. To him and his wife were born five children, four of whom are living: Trowbridge Nichols, who is a farmer of St. Marys, Kansas; Mrs. Kline; Asa, a resident farmer of Oregon; and Kate, who is the wife of Thomas Smith, a barber of Aurora. Mr. and Mrs. Kline have become parents of four children: Claudia, who died at the age of thirteen months; Edna Maude, the wife of Ellis Lancaster, a farmer of York county by whom she has three children: Gladys Fay, Ada Serena and Eleanor Marline; Lilah living at home and a member of the United Brethren church; and Roy Clifford, who was born July 25, 1891, and was one of the first in Hamilton county drafted for service in the World war. He became a member of Company B, Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth Infantry, Eighty-ninth Division, leaving home on the 2d of April, 1918, and going to Camp Hempstead on Long Island. He sailed for France on the 5th of June, 1918, and was killed in action on the 6th of November, 1918, in the battle of the Argonne, thus making the supreme sacrifice for his country, while the star of blue on the home service flag turned to a star of gold.

Mr. Kline and his wife are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he is identified with the Modern Woodmen. He votes with the democratic party but has never desired political office as a reward for party fealty. His wife in 1918 served as state president and was for seven years chaplain of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic. Both are widely known and highly esteemed, enjoying the warm regard of all who know them by reason of their sterling worth and many admirable qualities.

FRED HASELOH

Fred Haseloh has long been identified with the agricultural development of Clay county, where he owns a highly cultivated farm of three hundred and twenty acres. He is now, however, retired from active business life and is living in Harvard, a highly respected and representative citizen. He was born in Westphalia, Germany, on the 30th of June, 1843, a son of Louis and Wilhelmina (Pohlman) Haseloh, also natives of Germany, where they resided throughout their lives. His father was a successful shoemaker and a prominent man of the community in which he made his home. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Haseloh, two of whom are living, namely: Fred, whose name initiates this review; and Christian, a shoemaker of Brooklyn, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Haseloh were consistent members of the Lutheran church.

Fred Haseloh received his education in the schools of his native country. At the age of fifteen years he came to the United States and settled in St. Louis where he obtained work on a truck farm. Upon the outbreak of the Civil war he entered the army from St. Louis, enlisting in Company F, Fifteenth Missouri Volunteer Infantry. He served with Fremont in Missouri and afterward with the Army of the Cumberland. He participated in many of the important battles of the war, among them being Pea Ridge, Corinth and Stone River, at which latter place he was wounded and confined to the hospital for three months. He then rejoined his company and was with it in the battle of Chickamauga, at which time he was again wounded and invalided for two months. He was then transferred to the invalid corps and received his honorable discharge at the end of three years' active service. Returning to Missouri he entered the brick-laying business, in which line of work he was active for three or four years and subsequently went to Illinois, where he worked out on farms for two or three years. In 1873 he came to Nebraska, located in Clay county and proved up on a homestead. His first home on that land was a dugout but he later erected a fine frame home. His farming ventures proved to be very successful and he soon became one of the most prominent and progressive agriculturists in the community. Until 1900 Mr. Haseloh resided on the homestead and then moved into Harvard, where he has since lived retired. He retains his three hundred and twenty acres, the original homestead, which brings him a substantial income.

In 1865 occurred the marriage of Mr. Haseloh and Miss Sarah Carriker, a native of North Carolina, and a daughter of Daniel and Sophia (Sides) Carriker. Her parents removed to Illinois in 1848 and there the father engaged in farming,

achieving a substantial amount of success. Seven children have been born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Haseloh, six of whom are living: Charles, who is residing on the homestead in Clay county; Albert, farming near Harvard; Gus and Robert, farmers; Lillian, now the wife of George Erickson, a farmer of Clay county; and Jennie, who married O. M. Swanson of Lincoln county, a prominent rancher of that community.

Mr. Haseloh gives his political allegiance to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. For some time he was a member of the city council. Both Mr. and Mrs. Haseloh are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and fraternally he is identified with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Haseloh is indeed a self-made man. His record may justly serve as a source of encouragement and inspiration to others, for it indicates clearly that the way is open to ambitious, energetic young men and that the rewards of labor are sure when directed by sound judgment.

JOHN W. ILIFF

John W. Iliff, who has been closely identified with the development and improvement of Clay county for many years, devoting his attention to agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career with great success, is now living practically retired at Harvard. He was born in Hunterdon county, New Jersey, March 30, 1852, a son of Alpheus and Mary E. (Philhower) Iliff. The father was born in New Jersey on the 15th of August, 1828, and made his home in that state until his death in 1909. He was a blacksmith by trade and also engaged in farming. He was married to Mary E. Philhower when but twenty-three years of age. In July, 1862, Alpheus Iliff enlisted in the Union army as a member of Company E, New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the battles of Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Bull Run and numerous skirmishes. He was captured at the battle of Bull Run and was confined in Andersonville prison for seven months. He received his honorable discharge in August, 1863. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Iliff seven children were born, three of whom are living: John W., the subject of this review; Horace, who lives in California, retired; and Mary J., who is the wife of Martin Hoffman, a retired business man of Lebanon, New Jersey. Mr. Iliff who passed away in 1900, was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church and his political allegiance was given to the republican party. For a number of years Mr. Iliff was a delegate to both county and state conventions.

John W. Iliff received his education in the schools of his native state and at the age of eighteen years commenced farming on his own account. In 1877 he went to Bureau county, Illinois, and for about seven years worked out on farms. He subsequently removed to Nebraska and located in Clay county, where he moved on land which he had purchased in 1882.

In 1885 occurred the marriage of Mr. Iliff and Miss Barbara Osborn, a daughter of Wesley and Sarah (Barnett) Osborn, natives of Pennsylvania. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Iliff: F. H., who is residing on his father's farm

in Hamilton county; Clarence E., who works for a furniture company in Harvard; and Mary A., who is attending a business college at Lincoln.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Iliff the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the republican party and was the first supervisor of the new county organization in 1888, serving one term. He was a member of the school board as long as he lived in Eldorado township. In 1916, deciding to retire from active life, Mr. Iliff moved into Harvard, where he built a fine home and with the exception of tending to a truck patch in the summer he is enjoying a life of ease and comfort. He has many friends throughout the community and is readily conceded a representative citizen.

JAMES H. WILKINS

James H. Wilkins, although formerly actively engaged in farming, is now living retired in Aurora. He was born in Mortonsville, Kentucky, January 25, 1843, his parents being George and Fannie (Wilson) Wilkins. The father was probably born in Virginia while the mother's birth occurred in Kentucky and their marriage was celebrated in the latter state, where the father passed away in 1844 and the mother died in Illinois in 1863. Mr. Wilkins was a shoemaker and farmer and was the owner of slaves in Kentucky, being numbered among the well-to-do men of his day. His political endorsement was given to the democratic party. To him and his wife were born seven children.

James H. Wilkins, the youngest of the family and the only one now living, obtained his education in the common schools of Illinois, in which state he was reared to manhood. He was only a year old at the time of his father's death and was but ten years of age when his mother departed this life. In the spring of 1861, when a youth of eighteen he had responded to the country's call to aid in the preservation of the Union and had joined Company K of the Fourteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, serving with the western army. He participated in the battle of Shiloh, the Siege of Vicksburg and a number of other engagements and was honorably discharged June 1, 1864.

After being mustered out Mr. Wilkins returned to Illinois, where he took up the occupation of farming on his own account by renting land. In the fall of the same year—1864—he married Martha New, who was born in Scott county, Illinois, a daughter of William F. and Harriett (Gates) New, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Ohio. From the age of nine years until his death Mr. New resided on one farm in Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. New were born seven children but only two are living: Mrs. Mary Campbell of College View, Nebraska, and Mrs. Wilkins. The parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and loyally followed its teachings.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins were born ten children, nine of whom are living: Lillie, the wife of F. O. Hannawold, a retired farmer of Merna, Nebraska; William N., a farmer of Kansas; Frank, who carries on agricultural pursuits in this county; David H., a rice farmer of Arkansas; Hattie, at home; Whitfeld, a twin of Hattie, living on the home farm in Hamilton county; Dollie, who is at home;

Stella, the wife of Len T. Cole, who is engaged in merchandising in Montana; and Walter, who is a clerk in a drug store in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mrs. Wilkins is a member of the Presbyterian church. In politics Mr. Wilkins maintains largely an independent course, though inclined to the republican party. He served as a member of the school board and has been much interested in all that pertains to public progress and improvement.

It was in 1873 that Mr. Wilkins came to Hamilton county and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land in Beaver precinct, which he still owns. The farm was destitute of improvement and with characteristic energy he began the development of the place. He and his wife, with their four children, lived in a little two-room sod house, but about 1880 he built a frame dwelling, hauling the lumber from Aurora. Gradually he gained a start and from time to time extended the boundaries of his farm by the purchase of additional land until he is now the owner of five hundred and sixty acres of good land in this county. Year by year he carefully tilled the soil and gathered golden harvests and has become one of the successful agriculturists of this section of the state. In 1904 he removed to Aurora and rents his farm property from which he obtains a good annual income. At one time he was the owner of a drug store in Aurora. Whatever he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion and obstacles and difficulties in his path seem but to serve as an impetus for renewed effort on his part. It is fitting that a life of such intense and intelligently directed activities should be crowned with leisure and with success and at the present time he is enjoying well earned rest amid all of the comforts and luxuries that his former labor has provided for him.

ZIBA M. FOX

Ziba M. Fox dates his residence in Aurora from 1914 but first took up his abode in Hamilton county in 1880. Through the intervening period of forty-one years he has witnessed a remarkable change here as the work of development and progress has been carried steadily forward. For a long period he was identified with farming interests in the west but is now living retired. Ohio claims him as a native son, his birth having occurred in Lawrence county, that state, on the 24th of February, 1859, his parents being Josh B. and Elizabeth (Worthington) Fox, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, but in early life removed to Ohio, where the father followed the occupation of farming. His father had taken up land there from the government when Ohio was a frontier district. After living for many years in the Buckeye state J. B. Fox came to Hamilton county in the fall of 1880 and purchased eighty acres of railroad land. His first home in the west was a sod house and the family experienced all of the hardships and privations incident to frontier life, but as the years passed success crowned his efforts and it became more and more easy for him to secure the comforts and some of the luxuries of life for his family. His political endorsement was given to the democratic party and both he and his wife were members of the Christian church. Their family numbered eight children seven of whom are living: J. L., who is living retired at Stockville, Nebraska; Ziba M.; Margaret, the wife of Ranson Folden, also of

Stockville, where he is living retired from farming; James T., a farmer of Frontier county, Nebraska; Calvin, a carpenter, residing at Twin Falls, Idaho; George, who carries on farming in Hamilton county; and Amos B., a resident of Cocoran, California.

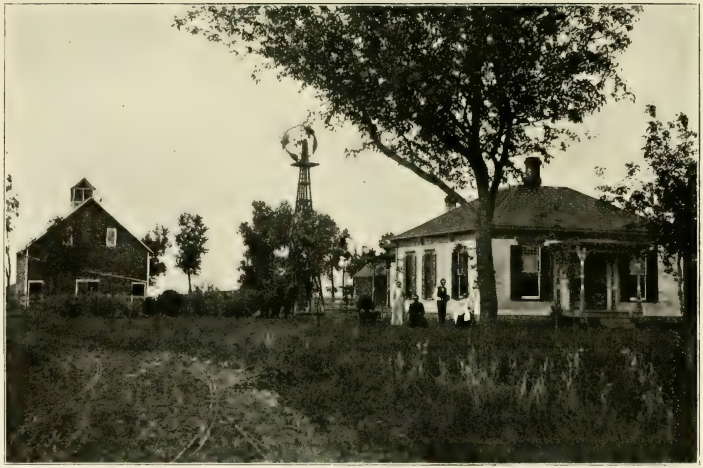
The district school system of Ohio provided Ziba M. Fox his early educational privileges. He had the opportunity of attending school for a few months during the winter season, while in the summer he worked on the home farm. He was a young man of twenty-one years when the family removed to Hamilton county and soon afterward purchased an eighty acre tract of land from the railroad, making yearly payment thereon until he had acquired ownership to that amount. Industry and perseverance have ever characterized his business career and while he started out empty-handed he is today numbered among the men of affluence in Aurora. He continued further to develop and improve his farm for a number of years and in 1912 removed to Missouri, where he purchased some farm land, making his home in that state for a year and a half. He then traded his property for town property in Aurora and has been a resident of the county seat since 1914, leading a retired life through the intervening period. He sold his farm in Hamilton county in 1918, but now owns a pleasant home at No. 811 Tenth street in Aurora.

In 1889 Mr. Fox was married to Miss Saripta Myers, who was born in Ohio, a daughter of Marion and Rachael (Looman) Myers, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, but early became residents of the Buckeye state. There her father died while the mother afterward removed to Nebraska and is now living with her daughter, Mrs. Fox, at the advanced age of eighty-one years. Mr. and Mrs. Fox became the parents of two children but both have passed away. The son, Elmer Fox, born in 1891, entered the service in the World war in December, 1917, and went to Denver, Colorado, where he remained for a week, after which he was sent to San Antonio, Texas, dying there in camp from pneumonia; Charles died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Fox belong to the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics he is a democrat but with independent tendencies and at one time supported the populist party. He has never been an aspirant for office, always preferring to concentrate his efforts and attention upon the business affairs which claimed his attention while he was still active. He has never been neglectful of the duties of citizenship, but has always supported those interests and projects which are a matter of genuine public worth, contributing to the civic development and advancement of community, commonwealth and country.

FREDERICK J. WERNER

Frederick J. Werner, who for many years has been identified with the agricultural development of Nuckolls and Clay counties, is now living retired in Edgar, enjoying the success which is the result of his own determined and individual effort. A native of Germany, Mr. Werner was born in Baden on the 31st of May, 1845, a son of Christopher and Mary (Menick) Werner, also natives of that country. His parents came to the United States in 1850 and settled in



HOME AND FAMILY OF FREDERICK J. WERNER

Cleveland, Ohio, where the father worked as a cooper. He followed his trade there with great success and his demise occurred near that city. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Werner removed with her family to Stark county, Ohio, and in 1872 came to Nebraska, locating in Nuckolls county. There she acquired a homestead and resided thereon until her death. In the family were two children: Frederick J., whose name initiates this review; and Margaret Roth, now deceased. Three sons of the latter served in the World war. Mr. and Mrs. Werner were consistent members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Werner gave his political allegiance to the democratic party. Both maternal and paternal grandparents of Frederick J. Werner were born and died in Germany with the exception of his grandmother, Margaret Menick, who came to the United States, where her demise occurred.

In the acquirement of an education Frederick J. Werner attended the public schools of Ohio and upon the outbreak of the Civil war enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, enlisting August 12, 1862. He fought under Generals Scofield and Sherman and was with the latter until he reached Atlanta. He was then sent to Nashville, Tennessee, and participated in the battles at Franklin and Nashville. On the 2d of June, 1865, Mr. Werner received his discharge and returned to Ohio, where he farmed and worked in a stoneware factory until 1869. In that year he went to Washington county, Iowa, where he was employed on a farm for some time, and in 1870 came west to Nebraska, locating in Nuckolls county. There he acquired a homestead, which he still owns. In the fall of 1870 he returned to Iowa, where he remained throughout the winter, coming back to the homestead in 1871. He has since made Nebraska his home, and in July, 1907, he removed to Edgar, where he is now living retired. Upon arriving in Nuckolls county Mr. Werner was financially crippled, and he spent his last five dollar bill for a calf, which purchase later proved to be a good investment. It was the beginning of fourteen head of cattle valued at over one thousand dollars which were raised in less than seven years' time.

On the 22d of August, 1878, Mr. Werner was united in marriage to Miss Emma J. Stanley, a daughter of Solomon Stanley, a native of Indiana, who came to Nebraska and settled in Nuckolls county at an early day. To this marriage, one son, C. J., was born and he is now engaged in the plumbing and tinning business at Wymore. Another child, Wilton, died in infancy. The death of Mrs. Werner occurred on the 30th of October, 1880, and on the 31st of December, 1882, Mr. Werner was again married, choosing Sarah A. Gunsalus for his wife. She was born in Pennsylvania and was a daughter of James C. and Deborah (Mulhallan) Gunsalus, both natives of that state. Her great-grandfather served in the Revolutionary war and her grandfather in the War of 1812. A brother, Alfred C. Gunsalus, was in the Civil war, and a nephew in the World war. Previous to her marriage Mrs. Werner taught school in Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska for a period of eighteen years. Two children have been born to the latter marriage: Alice D., who was born on the 12th of December, 1883, and died October 11, 1884; and Ella, who was born January 5, 1887, and received her education in the district schools, the schools of Beatrice and the State Normal school at Kearney and is now teaching at Mount Clare, Nebraska.

The political allegiance of Mr. Werner is given to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part, and his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church, belonging to the church at Edgar. Mrs. Werner is a member of the Bible Spiritualist. As a member of the Grand Army of the Republic Mr. Werner has served post No. 16 as quartermaster for some years. When he removed to Edgar in 1907 he rented his farm of two hundred and forty acres in Nuckolls county. At an early age Mr. Werner was thrown upon his own resources and is truly a self-made man, deserving much credit for what he has accomplished, his advancement being due to his individual effort and perseverance.

A. D. TRAVIS

When A. D. Travis started out in the business life in Nebraska his financial resources comprised only two hundred and twenty dollars. He was, however, the possessor of a stout heart and willing hand and his courage and determination constituted the foundation upon which he has builded success, so that at the present time he is enabled to live retired in Aurora, while the comforts and many of the luxuries are his by reason of his former toil. He was born in Wayne county, Ohio, February 21, 1850, and is a son of Daniel and Eleanor (Wolf) Travis, both of whom were natives of New York, whence they removed to Pennsylvania, in 1835, and in 1840 became residents of Ohio, remaining in that state until 1856, when they went to Indiana. Their marriage was celebrated in Albany, New York, and they spent their last days in Indiana, where the father for many years conducted farming on an extensive scale. Both he and his wife were loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church, taking deep interest in its work and his political belief was that of the republican party. They became the parents of six children of whom only two are living: Mrs. Mary Jacoby, a widow now residing in Aurora; and A. D., who is the youngest of the family. One son, Charles Travis, died while serving with the Union army in the Civil war. In both the paternal and maternal lines A. D. Travis comes of ancestry from the state of New York. His grandfather, Randolph Travis, was born in the Empire state and removed to Ohio, where he spent his remaining days, reaching the notable age of ninety-six years. The maternal grandfather, John Wolf, was also born in New York and continued a resident there until the time of his demise.

A. D. Travis was educated in the public schools of Indiana, in an academy at Plymouth, Indiana, and in the Normal School at Valparaiso, that state. He early took up the profession of teaching which he followed for nineteen terms in Indiana, becoming a teacher before reaching the age of sixteen years. In 1878 he arrived in Aurora and here established a grocery store in which business he continued for five years, after which he turned his attention to the grain trade and was active as a grain buyer for a decade. Through all these years he enjoyed a constantly growing success and at length retired from business. Forty-two years ago he built his home in Aurora and has lived on the one corner of the city—Eleventh and N streets—throughout the intervening period. He has witnessed the remarkable

change in the city which was little more than a village at the time of his arrival. He has lived to witness its development according to modern ideas of city building and rejoices in what has been accomplished as the work of enterprise and development has been carried forward.

In 1875 Mr. Travis was married to Florence Leggett, a native of Indiana and a daughter of Amos and Elizabeth Leggett, who were also from the Hoosier state. Six children, four sons and two daughters, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Travis: Albert, who conducts a five and ten cent store in Loup City, Nebraska; Willard, who is engaged in the stock business at Mullen, Nebraska; Carl, who operates a taxicab service in Aurora; Mabel, at home; Stella, the wife of Edward T. Kopettz, of Hastings, Nebraska; and Fred, who is a veteran of the World war. He enlisted in 1917, was trained at Camp Funston and went to France in the spring of 1918, participating in some of the most hotly contested battles and drives on the western front. On one occasion he was struck in the head by a piece of shell, but was only slightly injured. He now makes his home in Loup City, Nebraska.

Mrs. Travis and her daughter are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Travis is well known as an exemplary representative of Masonry, belonging to the lodge and chapter of the York Rite, and also to the Scottish Rite bodies. He is a past master of the lodge and past high priest in his chapter, having served for three years in each office. He gives all of the verbal instruction in Masonry for his lodge. His political views are in accord with the republican principles and he is a firm believer in the party. Mr. Travis retired from business in 1920 but is still the owner of valuable land in Hamilton county and eight hundred acres in Kansas. He had but three hundred and forty dollars when he left Indiana and when he reached Harvard had to pay freight to the extent of one hundred and twenty dollars, so that his remaining capital was but two hundred and twenty dollars. With this to start him in his new home he soon gained a financial footing and has built up a competence that places him with the men of affluence in Aurora and this section of the state. He has never been afraid of work and his diligence and unfaltering perseverance have been salient features in the attainment of his present-day success.

ABRAHAM C. FISHER

From 1899 until his death on November 19, 1915, Abraham C. Fisher resided retired in Harvard, a respected and representative citizen. He was a native of Ohio, having been born at Smyrna, Harrison county, on the 29th of June, 1845. His parents were Joseph and Mary Fisher, the demise of the latter occurring in Ohio. His father then removed to Iowa and engaged in farming until his death. Five children were born to that union, two growing to manhood and womanhood, but only one now living, namely: Lavina Catherine, who is the widow of Layer Free and resides in South Dakota. Joseph Fisher was throughout his life a stanch republican and a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In the acquirement of an education Abraham C. Fisher attended the common schools of Iowa and after putting his textbooks aside engaged in farming with his

father. He entered the Union army from Iowa in 1863, enlisting in Company K, Ninth Iowa Cavalry, with which he served for a period of two years and nine months. After the war he returned to Iowa and engaged in farming on his own account, remaining there until 1873, when he removed with his family to Clay county, arriving there the day before the blizzard of April 13th. He made the trip overland from Iowa and brought with him all his household goods. He secured a homestead, made his home in a primitive sod house and there resided until 1884, when he sold the farm and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land located nine miles northwest of Harvard. His widow is still in possession of this land, from which she derives a substantial income. In 1899, however, Mr. Fisher decided to retire from active life and moved into Harvard, where he resided until his death. Upon the news of his death on the 19th of November, 1915, a feeling of great bereavement swept the community, for in his passing Harvard and Clay county lost a pioneer and a representative citizen.

In 1868 occurred the marriage of Mr. Fisher to Miss America Elizabeth Eller, a native of North Carolina, and a daughter of John C. and Jane Rebecca (Montgomery) Eller, also natives of North Carolina. The father went to Iowa in 1853, where he took up farming and resided until 1873, when he came to Clay county and purchased land near Sutton. He later homesteaded near Trumbull and died on that farm. The death of Mrs. Eller occurred at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Fisher. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Eller, five of whom are living: James A., who is farming near Ottumwa, Iowa; Mrs. Fisher; Mrs. S. C. Colward, widow, who is residing with Mrs. Fisher; Jesse F., who is farming in California; and Joseph J., a farmer of Irvin, Washington. Throughout his life Mr. Eller was a stanch republican and a Mason and both he and his wife were consistent members of the Baptist church. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Fisher five children were born: John E., a farmer of South Dakota; Effie J. McDowell, who is residing on a farm in Gosper county; George J. works on a section in Harvard; Charles S., employed at Harvard; and Jessie M. Fiscus, who is residing on a farm in Adams county.

Mr. Fisher gave his political allegiance to the republican party, having firm belief in the principles of that party as factors in good government. Fraternally he was a member of the Modern Woodmen. In all that he undertook Mr. Fisher was actuated by a spirit of unfaltering enterprise and indefatigable energy and he never stopped short of the successful accomplishment of his purpose. He was indeed a representative citizen and was recognized as one of the prominent and influential residents of Clay county.

FRANK E. QUINN

Frank E. Quinn, who is conducting a bakery and restaurant business in Aurora, was born in Macomb, Illinois, August 22, 1864, his parents being John and Mary (Savage) Quinn, both of whom were natives of Ireland. They come to the United States when children, settling first in Peoria, Illinois, and their marriage was celebrated in La Salle, that state. The father was a railroad man and became

the first train master at Peoria. In 1860 he removed to Macomb, Illinois, where he spent his remaining days and his wife still occupies the old home farm in that locality. They were members of the Catholic church and Mr. Quinn gave his political allegiance to the democratic party. Their family numbered eight children, seven of whom are living.

Frank E. Quinn, the fourth in order of birth, was educated in the schools of Macomb, which he attended for three or four years and in the district schools following the establishment of the family home upon a farm in McDonough county. He took up farming as a life work, being employed by others for about two years and then leaving Illinois made his way to Aurora, where he visited for a time in 1884 and then went west. He spent about four years in the west and on the expiration of that period returned to Aurora. In 1892 he established a bakery and restaurant and through the intervening period has carried on this business, covering almost three decades. His establishment has always been one of the leading business houses of the city and his patronage has been gratifying.

In 1892 Mr. Quinn was married to Miss Minnie R. Sauls, who was born in Illinois, and they became the parents of five children: John, who is in business with his father; and Helen, Harold, Margaret and Edwin, all at home. The wife and mother passed away in 1906. She was a consistent member of the Catholic church and Mr. Quinn also belongs to the church and to the Knights of Columbus at Hastings. He is likewise identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and with the Highlanders. His political endorsement is given to the democratic party and in 1918 he was elected to the office of mayor, following four years' service as a member of the city council. He made an excellent record by the prompt and efficient manner in which he discharged his duties, looking ever to the civic development and civic honor of the city. He is a charter member of the Rotary Club and is widely known and highly esteemed as a business man and as a citizen. He is now giving his attention to his business affairs, in which his family are closely associated with him. His sons, Harold and John, were in the service in the World war, John spending a year overseas, while Harold enlisted in the regular army and was transferred to the Students Army Training Corps, being stationed at Manhattan, Kansas. They are now assisting their father, who is regarded as one of the successful business men of Aurora who through his persistency of purpose, his capable management and sound business judgment has won success. He is well liked, being a man of strong personality, and has gained many friends during the long period of his residence in Aurora.

ERNST BERGGREN

A resident of Hamilton county since 1884 Ernst Berggren here faced the trials and hardships which were the portion of the early settlers in general and he and his wife were fortunate in that they did not demand things that could not be obtained but proved themselves masters of expedients and calmly continued their earnest endeavors, assured in the confidence that eventually success would crown their efforts. This confidence has been fully justified by results and their beautiful

rural home on one of the fine farms of Monroe township gives tangible evidence of the prosperity that is theirs.

Mr. Berggren was born in Sweden in the year 1857, the schools of his native land having afforded him his early education and his experience having been expanded by six years of service in the Swedish army. In his native land he married Miss Sarah Odell, and in 1884 they came to the United States, with Hamilton county, Nebraska, as their destination. In that year Mr. Berggren purchased a partly improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in section 2, Monroe township. For this property he paid at the rate of about twenty-five dollars an acre and around this nucleus has evolved his present finely improved and valuable farm estate of two hundred and forty acres. When he purchased his original farm its improvements were represented mainly in a small frame house, a windmill and a sod stable. In earlier years Mr. Berggren and his wife would at times go an entire year without having a dollar of currency in their possession, but they contrived to provide for themselves through the medium of their farm and did not sacrifice their independence. They met losses through drought and grasshopper and chinch bugs worked havoc with crops when Mr. Berggren first began to raise spring wheat. He has realized the splendid fertility of the soil of this section of Nebraska and has profited by the work which he has here performed, a visit to his native land having but enhanced his appreciation of the advantages and attractions of his Nebraska home. In 1900 he perfected the remodeling and modernizing of his present farm house, which is one of the attractive rural domiciles of the county, and all other improvements on his farm property give patent evidence of thrift and prosperity of no insignificant order. Mr. Berggren is a republican in politics, served two years as assessor of Monroe township and five years as a member of the school board of his district and he and his wife are consistent members of the Swedish Free church. They have four children: Knute E. has a homestead and is engaged in farming in the state of Montana; Erick remains at home and has the active management of the farm; Judith is the wife of Vern Miller of Hamilton county; and Frances, who resides at home, is a successful teacher in the district schools.

M. R. WORTHINGTON

M. R. Worthington, numbered among the retired farmers living in Aurora, was born in Morgan county, Ohio, August 30, 1847, and has therefore passed the seventy-third milestone on life's journey. His parents were Thomas and Annie (Kane) Worthington, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of the Buckeye state. They were married in Ohio and in the year 1856 became residents of Iowa, where the father followed the occupation of farming. The year 1872 witnessed his removal to Hamilton county and here he took up a homestead, living in a dugout the first year and later building a sod house which in time was replaced by a more commodious frame dwelling. Year after year he carefully tilled the soil and developed his crops and both he and his wife continued on the old homestead until they were called to their final rest. Mr. Worthington had served his country as a soldier of the Civil war, enlisting in 1862 as a member of the Thirty-sixth

Iowa Infantry with which he was on duty for three years and two months, valiantly defending the stars and stripes. He was a republican in his political views and both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which Mrs. Worthington took a very active and helpful part. In the course of an active life Mr. Worthington accumulated one hundred and sixty acres of land but was always a liberal man, generous with his means and constantly extending a helping hand to others. His last days were spent in honorable retirement on his homestead. To him and his wife were born three children, two of whom are living, the younger being L. B. Worthington, a retired farmer residing in Aurora, and the other M. R. Worthington of this review. The daughter Mary, who is deceased, was the wife of William Boyer.

M. R. Worthington of this review obtained a limited education in the schools of Iowa, for he was the eldest son in the family and had to assist his mother during the period of the Civil war when his father was on the battle fields of the south. At length he started out on his own account, renting land in Iowa before his removal to Nebraska and his early training and experience stood him in good stead in the successful conduct of his farming interests. In 1867 he was married and for five years longer continued to make his home in Iowa, coming to Hamilton county in 1872. Here he homesteaded eighty acres and purchased from his brother an additional tract of eighty acres, while from his father he secured forty, then added more and still later bought land making three hundred and twenty acres. Thus from time to time he added to his property until it became a valuable and extensive tract of land. His experiences were such as usually fell to the lot of the pioneer. A dugout was his first home and afterward he lived in a sod house. He went through all of the hardships of real pioneer life but in the course of years was able to add to his farm all modern improvements and equipments and he transformed his land into rich and fertile fields which he brought under a high state of cultivation. In March, 1910, he removed to Aurora, where he purchased a residence which he has since occupied. Great, indeed, have been the changes which have occurred during his connection with Hamilton county, for when he came here game of all kinds was plentiful and it was no unusual thing to see Indians passing through on hunting trips. Mr. Worthington was living here during the memorable Easter storm and during the year of the grasshopper scourge when the insects destroyed all crops. He had journeyed from Ohio to Iowa in a covered wagon and in the same manner traveled from Iowa to Nebraska, reaching here with practically no possessions save his team and wagon, for he had only five dollars when he had paid for his homestead right. He expended two and a half dollars for a pair of shoes for his wife and thus had left only an equal sum. One of his horses was killed by lightning in 1874, so that he had but one remaining. In that same year he had planted thirteen acres to wheat and other fields to corn, which was destroyed by the grasshoppers. In the fall of that year he returned to Iowa, where he engaged in trading horses during the winter and in the following spring he again came to Hamilton county and followed teaming and come back with a good team, also bringing with him a good cow and sixty dollars in money as the result of the winter devoted to working in Iowa.

Mr. Worthington was married in 1867 to Hulda Jane Kaster, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Robert and Mary (McDaniel) Kaster, who were

also natives of the Keystone state, whence they removed to Ripley county, Indiana. After living there for six years they became residents of Iowa, where they resided throughout their remaining days, the father devoting his life to the occupation of farming. To Mr. and Mrs. Worthington have been born four children: Mary is the wife of W. A. Eggert, a retired farmer of Aurora, and they have four children: Russell, Leo, Rissie and Thelma; Hattie Jane, the second of the family, is the wife of C. L. Rurup, who is engaged in the implement business at Utica, Nebraska, and they also have four children: Leland, Ernest, May and Esther; William, the third of the family, is upon a farm in Hamilton county. He is married and has six children: Harold, Mazel, Ivan, Garl, Margaret and Eldred; James R., living upon a farm in Hamilton county, is married and has two children, Vera and Lila.

Mr. and Mrs. Worthington belong to the Methodist Episcopal church and both are members of the Degree of Honor, while politically he supports the republican party. He is interested in everything that pertains to general progress and improvement and his entire life has been actuated by a spirit of advancement that has brought him success in business and has made him a contributing factor to the development and interests of his adopted state.

GEORGE L. CAULKINS

An active and useful life was brought to a close when on the 10th of May, 1920, George L. Caulkins was called to his final rest. He was born in Delaware county, Ohio, September 23, 1859, and had spent the last thirteen years of his life in Aurora. He obtained a common school education in his native state and started out in the business world as a farmer. He went with the family to Kansas in 1886 and there worked by the month as a farm hand, having only fifty dollars when he reached the Sunflower state. He was employed at farm labor for twenty-five dollars per month and afterward purchased a team and wagon and drove across the country from Kansas to Hamilton county, sleeping under the wagon at night. This was in 1888 and it required four days to accomplish the trip. Mr. Caulkins was accompanied by his little family, for on the 29th of October, 1882, he had married Miss Lenora Davenport, who was born in Delaware county, Ohio, a daughter of Atwood and Avis (Dunham) Davenport, who were pioneer residents of the Buckeye state. The father was a farmer who also engaged in threshing and acted as mail carrier. He died in 1919, at the venerable age of eighty-five years. In his family were eight children, of whom seven are living, Mrs. Caulkins having been the third in order of birth.

When Mr. and Mrs. Caulkins reached Nebraska they had but two dollars and fifty-five cents in money, their team and wagon. They had started from their Kansas home with that sum of money and had expended not a cent while en route. The strictest economy and industry characterized their lives during the early period of their residence in Nebraska. Mr. Caulkins hired out by the month to Joshua Cox of Hampton at a wage of thirty-three and a third dollars per month and thus worked for a year. He then rented land for cash rent, but it was a dry year and they raised nothing. He continued to carry on farming for six years and



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE L. CAULKINS

then went onto the Jim Cox place and engaged in feeding stock and farming on shares. He was eight hundred dollars in debt at that time, but he possessed a resolute will and unfaltering courage and these qualities at length enabled him to overcome the trials and obstacles that beset him. Later he bought a half section of land for ten thousand dollars, making a cash payment of two thousand dollars and eventually he cleared the place of all indebtedness, living thereon for about six years. He bought and sold other tracts of land from time to time, making good success by reason of his careful investment and his sound judgment in business matters. At length he became the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of valuable land in Hamilton county, together with a nice home in Aurora. It was in December, 1907, that he took up his abode in the city and purchased a pleasant residence at No. 417 M street, at which time he retired from farming, spending his remaining days in the enjoyment of a rest which he had truly earned and richly deserved. To Mr. and Mrs. Caulkins were born three children, two of whom are living. The record is as follows: George Atwood, who died in Hamilton county in 1910; Lester J., who is living on his mother's farm; and Avis Roberts, who resides on a farm near Phillips, Nebraska.

Mr. Caulkins voted with the republican party but was never desirous of office as a reward for party fealty. He felt that his business affairs made full demand upon his time and energies and it was by reason of his close application, his thoroughness and sound judgment that he gained a place among the prosperous men of this section of the state.

PETER A. BREHM

For many years Peter A. Brehm engaged in farming in Clay county and for eight years conducted a dairy business. His energy, progressiveness and activities were so wisely and carefully directed that they brought him a gratifying amount of success, with the result that he is now living retired in Harvard. He was born in Russia on the 29th of July, 1869, a son of William and Elizabeth (Brehm) Brehm, both natives of that country, where they were married. They emigrated to the United States in later life and settled in Clay county in 1878, where the father rented a farm for four years and then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land, for which he paid ten dollars per acre. There were no improvements on the farm but Mr. Brehm, with the aid of his sons, soon had the land in a high state of cultivation and after paying off all debts on the land retired to Sutton. There his death occurred in October, 1916, and his widow passed away in August, 1918. Six children were born to them; Henry, a retired butcher of Lincoln; Maggie, who is the wife of Adam Cook, a retired farmer of Kearney; C. W., a farmer of Lynn precinct, Clay county; Peter A., whose name initiates this review; W. H., a grocer of Lincoln; and Eliazbeth, who married Peter Cemerla and resides on a farm near Stratton. Throughout his life William Brehm was a stanch republican and both he and his wife were members of the Evangelical church.

Peter A. Brehm received his education in Russia, up to nine years of age, attended schools after coming to America. He came with his parents to this

country and engaged in farming in Clay county, where at one time he was in possession of a half section of land. He sold an eighty acre tract in 1920 for twenty thousand eight hundred dollars, on which he realized a fine profit for he had paid twenty-five hundred and fifty dollars for the eighty acres of land when he purchased it. For eight years Mr. Brehm ran a dairy farm, specializing in Holstein cows and in addition he raised the finest breeds of cattle. The place was well improved, having a large silo, barns and sheds of all kinds. He also raised and shipped some full-blooded buff Orpington chickens and became well known in that connection throughout the United States. In the winter of 1919 he shipped over one thousand dollars' worth of chickens. He resided on the farm until October, 1919, when he retired and removed to Harvard, where he built a nice home.

In 1890 occurred the marriage of Mr. Brehm and Miss Elizabeth Glantz, also a native of Russia, and a daughter of Conrad and Anna Vatrine Glantz, who came to the United States and located in Clay county in the '80s. Five children have been born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Brehm: William, a stockman of this state; Harry, farming in Clay county; Joseph, engaged in the lumber business at Kearney; Josie, who married Roy Slater, a farmer of Clay county; and Leslie, who is attending school. Joseph enlisted in the United States army on the 22d of September, 1917, and received his training at Camp Funston, where he remained for eight months. On the 22d of May, 1918, he sailed for France, and there participated in some of the important battles of the war, among them St. Mihiel and the Argonne forest. He was supply sergeant and on the 9th of June, 1919, received his discharge. Previous to his entrance into the war he was connected with a lumber-yard at Seward and after returning home worked on a farm for some time before entering his present line of work.

The political allegiance of Mr. Brehm is given to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Brehm was farsighted and sagacious in his business transactions, readily recognizing and utilizing opportunities. He is not remiss in the duties of citizenship and although the greater part of his time has been devoted to his agricultural interests any plan or project for the general welfare of the community has always been assured his stanch support.

JONAS NODLAND

Jonas Nodland, whose efforts have ever been guided by sound judgment and who in his farming operations has won a measure of success that now enables him to live retired in a most attractive home at Harvard, was born April 27, 1843, in Norway, near Halgerson. His parents were Salve and Martha Nodland, both natives of Norway, where the father engaged in farming and where both passed away. Nine children were born to that union, of whom Jonas Nodland was the youngest and is the only one living. Mr. and Mrs. Nodland were stanch supporters of the Lutheran church.

Jonas Nodland received his education in the schools of his native country and later came to the United States, making the trip on an old sailing vessel and

spending six weeks on the sea. He landed at Quebec, Canada, in 1871, and later removed to Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he resided until 1874 when he came to Clay county and took a homestead of eighty acres. He brought that land to a highly cultivated state and was active in its conduct until 1919 when he removed to Harvard and retired. For the first six years of his residence in Clay county Mr. Nodland "bached" in a sod house but he later married and erected a fine frame residence.

In 1880 occurred the marriage of Mr. Nodland and Miss Christina Taelle, a native of Norway, who settled with her parents in Winneshiek county, Iowa, in 1865, where they passed away. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Taelle: Mrs. Nodland; and Lars, a farmer in Iowa. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Nodland one boy and two girls have been born: Sam, who is residing at Hastings; Anna Matilda, the wife of Albert Ruebsaman, a farmer residing six and one-half miles northwest of Harvard; and Ella Josephine, who married Peter Schnell, a farmer residing eight miles northwest of Harvard.

Mr. Nodland has always given his political allegiance to the republican party, having firm belief in the principles of that party as factors in good government. The religious faith of both Mr. and Mrs. Nodland is that of the Lutheran church. Mr. Nodland has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to America, for here he found the opportunities for which he sought and in their utilization has made steady progress, reaching a successful goal. He has made many friends in the community who appreciate his sterling traits of character and true personal worth.

OSCAR BERGGREN

A sterling citizen who manifests deep satisfaction in the fact that he participated in the activities of pioneer life on the frontier and proved himself helpful in connection with the civic and material progress and development of Hamilton county, is Oscar Berggren, who has found ample compensation in the results of his earnest efforts in past years and is now the owner of one of the valuable farm properties of Monroe township, this county, where his attractive homestead is situated in section 11. A skilled artisan along varied lines, Mr. Berggren contributed much to the early upbuilding of this section of the state in a most literal sense and he was frequently called from the work of his pioneer farm to assume charge of the erection of some building for a neighbor or for a settler in a distant part of the county. He has kept pace with the march of progress and is today numbered among the substantial and honored pioneer citizens of Hamilton county.

Oscar Berggren was born in Sweden, in the year 1855, was there reared and educated and there learned the trade of carpenter, besides becoming skilled in other departments of mechanical work. In 1880 he came to the United States and passed the first two years in Chicago, where he found employment as pattern-maker in railroad shops. In 1882 he came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, and purchased forty acres of land in Monroe township, about ten acres of the tract having been broken but no house had been built on the place. In 1884 he erected a good frame house on this farm and also built a little shop in which he and a

partner, Carl Scokesberg, engaged in the manufacturing of wagons and buggies, besides doing blacksmith work and all manner of repairing of vehicles and farm implements and machinery. This enterprise engrossed the attention of Mr. Berggren during the greater part of his first two years of residence in the county, but he then instituted the development and cultivation of his farm. As the only carpenter in the immediate section he was called upon to supervise the erection of most of the houses in his neighborhood and while thus engaged in helpful service to others he frequently had to hire help for the necessary work on his farm. His skill as an artisan has come into specially effective play in connection with the improving of his farm, which now comprises two hundred acres, for his buildings are of most excellent type and indicate alike his mechanical ability and his thrift and prosperity as an exponent of agricultural and live stock industry. His farm house is one of the attractive places of the county and its hospitality and good cheer are noteworthy. He has given effective service as a member of the school board for fifteen years, this school having been specially favored in its record of obtaining good teachers and doing excellent school work. In the early days he did most of his trading at Aurora, which was then a mere frontier hamlet, and like other pioneers has seen antelopes and deer in this section, as well as Indians, who hunted and trapped along the river courses.

Mr. Berggren is a republican in politics and has taken lively interest in all things touching the civic and material welfare of his home county, in which, save for an interval of four years, he has served continuously since 1896 as county surveyor. He and his wife are earnest communicants of the Swedish Lutheran church. He had about six hundred dollars at the time of his arrival in Hamilton county and today has the independent status of a man of substantial prosperity.

In the year 1884 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Berggren to Miss Sophie Olson, who was born in Norway, and they have six children: Walter is a prosperous farmer in Chase county; Mary is the wife of Thomas Hatfield of Los Angeles, California; Ruth is the wife of Walter Elliott of Adams, Gage county, Nebraska; John is associated in the work and management of the home farm; Victor; and Edith is the youngest member of the home circles.

PETER JACOBY

Peter Jacoby, who at one time was the owner of six hundred and forty acres of valuable land in Hamilton county, passed away in December, 1911, after two years spent in retirement from business, during which period he resided in Aurora, where his widow still makes her home. He was numbered among the native sons of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Marion county in 1835. His youthful days were spent in that county and in Indiana and during that period he acquired a good common school education. He was a lad of twelve years when he removed to the Hoosier state in company with his father and mother, John and Elizabeth (Brown) Jacoby, who cast in their lot with the pioneer residents of that state and continued to make their home within its borders until death. The father was a farmer and weaver, following those pursuits in pioneer times in Indiana. John

Jacoby secured an undeveloped tract of land which he transformed into rich and productive fields and upon the old homestead farm there Peter Jacoby was reared, his experiences being those of the farm bred boy upon the western frontier.

Having arrived at years of maturity Mr. Jacoby was married in 1873, in Indiana, to Miss Mary Caroline Travis, a sister of A. D. Travis, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work. Three children were born to this marriage: Dwight L., who is now a farmer living at Loup City, Nebraska; Arthur Henry, who carries on farming near Bayard, Nebraska; and Grace Irene, who is living with her mother.

It was five years after his marriage, or in 1878, that Mr. Jacoby left Indiana and came to Hamilton county. He purchased a farm of four hundred and eighty acres and afterward added one hundred and sixty acres to his original holdings. For about two years after coming to this state he boarded with a neighbor but brought his family in 1880, after having made preparations for their reception. Following their arrival he built a frame house on his land and added modern improvements from time to time, converting his place into one of the productive farms of the neighborhood. He had a good barn on his place that was carried away in a cyclone, but notwithstanding the hardships and trials that thus came to him from time to time he persevered and with the passing years made of his place a valuable property, while the fertile soil yielded to him golden harvests and he was thus able to add to his income year by year. In 1909 he removed to Aurora, where his remaining days were passed. He purchased a nice home in the city at 1103 Fifth street, where Mrs. Jacoby still makes her home. She is the owner of eighty acres of land near Stockham, Nebraska. Mr. Jacoby had but sixteen hundred dollars when he came to Hamilton county and at his death he left to his family a large and valuable estate, which was the tangible proof of his life of industry, perseverance and intelligently directed effort. His political endorsement was given to the republican party and he was much interested in its success because of his firm belief in its principles. He always sought to further any plan or measure for the general good and supported all interests of value to the state. He belonged to the Highlanders and from the age of twelve years he was a consistent member of the Reformed church, taking a very active part in the church work and serving for a number of years as superintendent of the Sunday school. In fact the church ever held a foremost place in his affection and in his interest and his cooperation could at all times be counted upon to further any plan or measure for the upbuilding of the cause and the extension of church influence.

PETER SCHWARZ

Peter Schwarz was numbered among the substantial citizens of Russian birth who came to Nebraska. He was born in Russia in 1847 and passed away in Clay county in 1915. He pursued his education in his native land and was reared to farm life. In 1874 he crossed the Atlantic and made his way westward, taking up his abode in Sutton. Here he purchased railroad land on which he located and then concentrated his efforts and attention upon the improvement of the property,

successfully cultivating his farm until 1912, when he removed to Sutton and retired from active business.

Peter Schwarz was married in Russia to Magdaline Ochsner and they became the parents of the following children, all living, two of these being born in Russia and the others in Clay county: Mrs. Sophia Kauk, living on a farm in Clay county; Elizabeth, the wife of W. F. Grosshans, a lumberman of Sutton; Emelie, the wife of Fred Grosshans, a lumberman of York, Nebraska; Jacob; Lydia Wieland, now living retired in Sutton; Charles, who is on the old homestead farm; Christina, the wife of Henry Wieland, a merchant of Sutton; Bertha, the wife of William Hoffman, a farmer of York county; and Freda, the wife of Ed. J. Ochsner, connected with the Clothing Company of Sutton.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Peter Schwarz were members of the Reformed church and its teachings guided him in all of the relations of life, making him a man whom to know was to esteem and honor. His political endorsement was given to the republican party.

JACOB SCHWARZ

Jacob Schwarz, of this family, was educated in the country schools and began life as a farm hand, continuing to devote his attention to agricultural pursuits until 1903, when he removed to Sutton. For a time he was not actively engaged in business on account of his health, but eventually purchased the business of the Sutton Clothing Store Company in 1916. Since that time he has carried a large stock of clothing and ladies' ready-to-wear goods and has developed a business of very gratifying proportions, this being due to the attractive line of goods which he handled and his thoroughly reliable and progressive business methods.

Mr. Schwarz was united in marriage to Miss Christina Wieland, who was born in Clay county, a daughter of Michael Wieland, one of the pioneers of this section of the state. They now have two children: Harvey and Kenneth, aged respectively eighteen and eleven years. The parents are loyal followers of the Reformed church and in politics Mr. Schwarz is a republican, but is not an aspirant for office, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his business affairs. His father began life in the new world with a cash capital of about five hundred dollars and enterprise and diligence have brought him to the front. The same qualities are being displayed by Jacob Schwarz and success in gratifying measure is now rewarding his labors.

HENRY W. GORDON

Now venerable in years and a sterling citizen, Henry W. Gordon retains splendid mental and physical vigor and insistently refuses to assume any attitude that might express him as a "back number." He still retains a general and punctilious supervision of his farm, a well improved place in section 26, Phillips

township, Hamilton county, where he has maintained his home for nearly thirty years.

Henry W. Gordon was born in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, October 1, 1840, his parents, Samuel and Sarah Jane (Piper) Gordon, having immigrated from the state of New York and become pioneer settlers in Wisconsin., There the father took up a tract of timbered land, for which he paid at the rate of $1.25 per acre and he cleared off much of the timber, developed a productive farm and proved an honored and valued citizen of Jefferson county, where he and his wife continued to reside until they passed away. A pioneer log house was the birthplace of Henry W. Gordon and his initial experience of pioneer order was in a district where settlers were compelled to undertake the arduous labor of clearing away heavy forest trees, a work in which he was not denied a share in the period of his sturdy youth. As a lad he walked a distance of one and one-half miles for the purpose of attending a pioneer school that was maintained on the subscription plan and here it was that he laid the solid foundation for the broad superstructure of practical knowledge which he has reared in later years of association with the affairs of life. He assisted in the various phases of work on the home farm and at the age of twenty-one years initiated his independent career.

On the 13th of November, 1861, about one month after he had celebrated his twenty-first birthday anniversary, Mr. Gordon was united in marriage to Miss Emily M. Coats, who was born and reared in the state of New York and who accompanied her parents to Wisconsin, where her marriage was solemnized. A somewhat unusual wedding tour and honeymoon were those of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, for soon after their marriage they set forth from Wisconsin with their little supply of household effects, their conveyance being a covered wagon drawn by a team of horses, in the wake of which followed their cow, this valued acquisition being stolen from them near Dubuque, Iowa. They continued their journey to Iowa county, that state, now the seat of the great University of Iowa and there Mr. Gordon purchased eighty acres of wild land and entered upon his career as a pioneer farmer of the Hawkeye state. Within a few years he disposed of his land in Iowa county and removed to Cass county, where he became the owner of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, upon which he made good improvements and here he continued his residence many years, one of the successful farmers and representative citizens of that Iowa county. He finally sold this property and soon afterward, in the spring of 1890, came to Grand Island, Nebraska, where he remained two years. He then purchased his present fine homestead farm, which under his able and progressive management has been developed into one of the banner farms of Phillips township. He is the owner also of another farm of forty acres in the same township. He erected his present commodious and substantial frame house within a short time after here establishing his residence and has provided other buildings that go to make up the equipment of a modern farm. He knows every detail of farm enterprise and his experience and mature judgment have enabled him to gain the maximum returns from his Nebraska farm, which he has devoted primarily to the raising of the grain crops best suited to the soil and climate.

Mr. Gordon has taken loyal interest in community affairs and has served as an officer of his school district during virtually the entire period of his residence

in Hamilton county. He is a stalwart advocate of the cause of the republican party and his wife is an earnest member of the Baptist church. Their only child, William H., died at the age of three and one-half years, but they did not permit their home to lack for child life, as they reared from the age of one year, Etta Maude Coats, a niece of Mrs. Gordon, and she has well repaid them in filial love and solicitude. She married Charles Devore, a resident of Phillips.

GEORGE W. SCHWAB

Since 1902 George W. Schwab has been residing on Pleasant View farm, located in section 4, Marshall township, where he engages in the live stock business. He was born in Bureau county, Illinois, on the 27th of June, 1876, a son of George P., further mention of whom is made in the sketch of Phil Schwab to be found on another page of this work.

At the age of four years George Schwab came to Clay county with his parents and received his education in the country schools of the county. The schoolhouse which he attended is still standing and is a part of his present farm. George W. Schwab remained under the parental roof until he became of age, when he started farming for himself, taking over his father's land. His father did general farming and stock raising and brought the first pure blood Percheron horse into this part of the state, in 1886. For some time Mr. Schwab continued farming and then removed to Clay Center, where he accepted a clerkship in a grocery store and later resigning that position engaged in the horse business, specializing in Percheron stallions. He followed that business in Clay Center until 1902 and during that time shipped two carloads of stallions to Alliance, where he sold them, realizing a substantial amount from the sales. In August, 1902, he returned to the farm on which he now resides and with his father engaged in stock raising, their business being conducted under the name of George P. & George W. Schwab. Their specialty has been Percheron horses and for some time they handled imported stallions, red polled cattle, Jacks stock and Duroc Jersey hogs. They generally average about twenty-five head of Percheron stallions and mares on the farm. Mr. Schwab has the distinction of shipping hogs over a larger radius than any other breeder in the corn belt. The cattle are shipped to all parts of the United States. For seven years Mr. Schwab has been well represented at the Nebraska State Fair and has carried away many premiums. The farm on which he is now living has been named Pleasant View and it is one of the beautiful places of the surrounding country. It consists of four hundred acres, all highly improved and cultivated. In addition to this land Mr. Schwab owns timber and grazing and mineral land in Arkansas. He has held fifteen annual auction sales in addition to many private sales, they being well attended and the cattle selling at more than satisfactory prices.

In 1897 Mr. Schwab was united in marriage to Miss May Seelig, a daughter of William Seelig, a pioneer of Clay county. He was one of the first merchants in Clay Center and financed the project for the manufacture of incubators. He



GEORGE W. SCHWAB

was at one time manager of the Sure Hatch Incubator and later had charge of the distributing district in Indianapolis, owning one-third interest in the company. After selling his interests in 1907 he retired and moved to his land in Oklahoma, where he has extensive oil interests. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Schwab: Reuben L., Herschel W., Helen B., Herbert H., and Luella F., all at home.

Mr. Schwab gives his political allegiance to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part, although he has neither sought nor desired public office as a reward for party fealty. His religious faith, as well as that of the family, is that of the Evangelical church, and his fraternal affiliation is with the Modern Woodmen of America. In the line of his work he is a member of the Percheron Society of America, the Red Poll Cattle Club of America, the Standard Jack and Jeanette Registry of America, of which latter association he is honorary president, the National Duroc Jersey Record Association, the F. E. & C. U. of A. and the Farm Bureau. Mr. Schwab devotes his entire time to his stock raising interests, in the conduct of which he displays those qualities which show him to be thoroughly conversant with modern-day business and enterprise. His life has ever been actuated by a spirit of enterprise and progressiveness that accomplishes results and success is attending his well defined efforts.

ALEXANDER SALMON

More than a quarter of a century has passed away since Alexander Salmon (who was familiarly known as Sandy Salmon) departed this life, but he is yet remembered by those who knew him as a substantial citizen and representative business man who deserved and received the high regard of all who knew him. He was born in Dundee, Scotland, in 1840, and died in 1893. His parents were Thomas and Christina (Fettus) Salmon, both of whom spent their entire lives in Scotland. The son was educated in that land and came to the United States with an uncle who reared him, for he was a youth of sixteen years when he crossed the Atlantic. For a number of years he lived in Dane county, Wisconsin, and in that state hired out to work as a farm hand and was also employed in the pinery during the winter months.

In February, 1870, Mr. Salmon was united in marriage to Miss Jean Rutherford, who was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, a daughter of John and Jean (Allison) Rutherford. They, too, were natives of Scotland and became residents of Wisconsin in pioneer times. There the father cleared away the forest and developed a tract of land, spending his remaining days upon the old home farm. They had a family of six children, three of whom are living, Mrs. Salmon being the eldest of the family. By her marriage she has become the mother of seven children: Thomas, who is located on a farm near Giltner; William, who follows farming in Hamilton county; John R., also engaged in agricultural pursuits in Hamilton county; James A., living on the old homestead farm; Jesse, who lives with his mother; Jane, the wife of J. Ed Cameron, living on a farm near Stockham,

Nebraska; and Annie, the wife of Robert E. Williams, whose home is a farm near Burwell, Nebraska.

It was in May, 1869, that Alexander Salmon came to Hamilton county, which was then a wild and undeveloped region. Few, indeed, were the settlements that had been made within its borders. He took up a preemption claim of one hundred and sixty acres and afterward homesteaded eighty acres. Upon his land he built a log house and the necessary buildings for the shelter of grain and stock and then brought his wife to the home that he had prepared, her arrival being in March, 1870. They were among the pioneer families of Hamilton county and on the farm which he developed Mr. Salmon lived to the time of his death. He had previously purchased property in Aurora and Mrs. Salmon took up her abode in the city in April, 1903. He was the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land at the time of his demise and this property still belongs to his widow and children. After arriving in Nebraska he bought a yoke of oxen and one cow and had very little money. Success came to him as the outcome of his earnest labor and unremitting toil. He worked hard and his persistency of purpose brought the success which ultimately crowned his labors. In politics he was a republican and his religious faith was that of the Presbyterian church. He was widely known throughout the county and well liked wherever known, for he possessed attractive qualities that gained him the friendship, confidence and goodwill of all. He lived to witness much of the county's development and his widow is still a resident of Hamilton county, where she has now made her home for fifty-one years, spending the last eighteen years of this period in Aurora.

JOHN D. MAY

In Adams county, Ohio, on the 21st of February, 1846, was born John D. May, who was destined to become a youthful soldier of the Union in the Civil war, who later gained pioneer experience in the state of Iowa, and who, in September, 1883, established his home in Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he is now living retired in the village of Marquette.

Mr. May is a son of John and Elizabeth (Swanger) May, both of whom were born in the state of Pennsylvania, where their marriage was solemnized and whence they removed to Ohio in 1845, settling in a timbered district on the Ohio river. In the old Buckeye state John May continued to follow his trade, that of carpenter and builder, until 1866, when he removed with his family to Iowa and became a pioneer of Wayne county. He found definite demand for his services as a carpenter and contractor in connection with the rapid development of the country and both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives in that state.

John D. May is indebted to the common schools of Ohio for his youthful education and was eighteen years of age when, in May, 1864, he enlisted for service as a soldier in the Civil war. He became a private in Company I, One Hundred and Forty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, was mustered into service at Gallipolis, judicial center of Gallia county, Ohio, and with his command was assigned to guard duty, in which he continued service until he received his honorable discharge in Septem-

ber, 1864. In 1866 he accompanied his parents on their removal to Iowa, where he became associated with his father's activities as a contractor and builder, having learned the carpenters' trade under the effective direction of his father. Mr. May continued in the work of his trade in the Hawkeye state until September, 1883, when he came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, and purchased a farm of forty acres, in South Platte township. This place had only meager improvements at the time, including a small frame house and a straw barn. After selling this farm he rented land in this county and here continued his productive activities as an agriculturist and stock raiser until 1913, since which year he has lived retired at Marquette, where he personally supervised in 1909 the erection of the attractive house which is his present place of abode.

Mr. May cast his first presidential vote for General Ulysses S. Grant and during the intervening years has never faltered in his allegiance to the republican party. He and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church at Aurora, the county seat, and in his home village he is affiliated with Post No. 42 of the Grand Army of the Republic and with Marquette Lodge, No. 288, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

In Iowa on the 26th of December, 1867, Mr. May wedded Miss Sarah I. Sharp, who was born in Ohio and whose parents became pioneer settlers in Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. May became the parents of nine children, six of whom are living: Mary Etta is the wife of Charles F. Cunningham of Buhl, Idaho; Sarah E., who became the wife of Thomas B. Herbert, is deceased; Jessie is the wife of Silas J. Hill, of Manhattan, Kansas; Wilbert died at the age of about fourteen years; Nellie Z. is the wife of Charles Kee, of Loup City, Sherman county; Rena, deceased, was the wife of Albert Carlson of Chicago; Alice is the wife Ora Ryan, who is salesman for an automobile garage at Central City, Merrick county; Irma is the wife of Joseph L. Shanefelt, of Dalton, Cheyenne county; and Samuel L. is a progressive farmer of Hamilton county.

S. L. BURT

S. L. Burt has lived an active and useful life, but has now retired from business save the supervision which he gives to his invested interests. He makes his home in Aurora, where he owns valuable property, deriving therefrom a substantial annual income. He was born in Bristol, England, April 2, 1861, and is a son of Daniel and Sarah (Popplestone) Burt, the former a native of Yorkshire and the latter of Devonshire, England. They came to the United States in 1866 settling in the state of New York and for a considerable period the father engaged in business as a stone and brick mason and contractor in Steuben county, following his trade in that section of the country for fifteen years. In 1881 he arrived in Aurora, Nebraska, where he continued to engage in brick and masonry work until his death about 1910. The mother is still living at the age of eighty-two years, making her home with her son, S. L. She is a member of the United Brethren church while Mr. Burt was a member of the Freewill Baptist church. Fraternally he was a Mason and politically was a prohibitionist, being a stalwart champion

of the cause of temperance. In their family were six children four of whom are living, S. L. being the eldest. The others are: Phillip, a piano tuner residing in Aurora; James D., an architect in the employ of New York state, residing in Peekskill, New York; and Rose, the widow of Professor F. A. Wood, who passed away in Long Beach, California. She is now residing in Chicago. Frank died September 13, 1920.

S. L. Burt pursued his education in the schools of Bath, Steuben county, New York, and in the Hoverling Union Academy. He then took up mason work with his father and followed that pursuit for thirty years, developing a high degree of efficiency and skill and winning a substantial place in the business circles of the community in which he operated. He also spent fifteen years on a farm in Hamilton county, becoming the owner of a valuable property as the result of the care and cultivation which he bestowed upon his fields. He likewise conducted a nursery in this county fifteen years and sold both the farm and nursery in 1918. He owns five pieces of property in Aurora and a good farm in Colorado and is today one of the men of affluence in his section of the state. He started out in life with but fifty dollars capital and as the years have passed has won very substantial and gratifying success.

In 1895 Mr. Burt was married to Miss Ida Bell Wood, a daughter of Professor H. C. Wood, who was one of the professors of Dartmouth College. Mrs. Burt is a high school graduate and is a lady of innate culture and refinement. By her marriage she has become the mother of two children: Clara Belle, now a stenographer in the Fidelity National Bank of Aurora and a graduate of the McCormick Business College of Chicago; and Ethel, who is employed in Crossetts Jewelry Store. In his political views Mr. Burt has always been a prohibitionist since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and he supports all progressive public measures but has never sought office as a reward for party fealty. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and for a number of years he has acted as choir leader. He has been a member of the Wood brothers quartette for nearly thirty years, singing all over the county and state. Mr. and Mrs. Burt take a helpful interest in the various branches of the church work and occupy an enviable social position, having many warm friends in Aurora and throughout the country.

W. L. GADDIS

The spirit of modern-day enterprise and progressiveness finds expression in the record of W. L. Gaddis, who is now conducting a grocery business in Harvard. He was born in Clinton county, Ohio, August 11, 1852, a son of Allen S. and Sarah Jane (Yeo) Gaddis, the former a native of Union county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Virginia. Their marriage was celebrated in Clinton county, Ohio, where their parents settled when they were children and for many years they made that state their home. In 1864 they removed to Macon county, Illinois, where the father's death occurred a year later, in 1865. He owned two hundred acres of well improved land in Macon county and was recognized as a leading agriculturist.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gaddis, three of whom are living. Mrs. Andrew Murphy and W. L. both live in Harvard. Mrs. Gaddis died in 1890. Throughout their lives Mr. and Mrs. Gaddis were members of the Baptist church and he was a stanch supporter of the republican party.

In the acquirement of an education W. L. Gaddis attended the schools of Ohio and Illinois and his first occupation after putting his textbooks aside was farming. In 1879 he located in Harvard, engaged in farming in that vicinity for five years and then for thirty-two years conducted a dray line. Mr. Gaddis has owned several farms throughout the community and he is now in possession of fine land in North Dakota and Texas. For some time he has conducted a grocery business at Harvard, building up a good patronage and he also has a rooming house. He derives a substantial income from his business and from the property he owns in Harvard, and the success that he enjoys is indeed well merited.

On the 28th of February, 1882, occurred the marriage of Mr. Gaddis and Rella Burdick, a native of Juneau county, Wisconsin, and a daughter of J. Burdick. Her father settled in Clay county in 1873 and homesteaded. He later in life removed to Harvard and there both he and his wife passed away. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Gaddis, one son, Earl B., has been born, his birth having occurred in Harvard on the 22d of March, 1884. He received his education in the Harvard schools and later took courses at the State University and Doane College. For three years he was private secretary to Senator Hitchcock and is now assistant manager of the World Herald of Omaha.

Mr. Gaddis has always given his political allegiance to the democratic party and he is an Ancient Free and Accepted Mason. For several years he served as deputy sheriff of Clay county under Ed Davis and Guy Secord. Mrs. Gaddis is a consistent member of the Christian church. Mr. Gaddis has concentrated his efforts and attention upon his business interests and as a result has won a substantial amount of success. He is indeed a self-made man and is readily conceded to be a representative citizen of Harvard.

WILLIAM H. EBERT

William H. Ebert, a retired farmer living in Sutton, was born in Du Page county, Illinois, November 22, 1850, his parents being Benjamin and Loretta (Wise) Ebert, both of whom were natives of Germany, where they were reared and married, coming to the United States in 1848, at which time they settled in Illinois. The father there took up farming and remained a resident of that state for three decades, after which he came to Clay county, Nebraska, in 1878. Here he purchased land but lived in Sutton, where he afterward passed away. His wife died while on a visit in the home of her daughter in Illinois. They were members of the Evangelical church and Mr. Ebert voted with the republican party. While he started out in the business world in Nebraska with very limited means, he was successful as the years passed and at the time of his death owned a half section of excellent farm land and twenty acres in the edge of Sutton where he lived. To him and his wife were born five children, three of whom survive: Charles, now a

retired farmer of Sutton; William H.; and Amelia, the widow of Fred Troester, living in Illinois.

William H. Ebert pursued his education in the schools of Illinois and started out in the business world as a farmer. In fact he gave his entire attention to agricultural pursuits up to the time of his retirement and year after year as a result of his careful cultivation of his crops and the results achieved thereby he added annually to his income. As his financial resources increased he extended the boundaries of his farm and became the owner of an entire section of land in Clay county. This he divided among his four sons. In the meantime he had put many modern improvements on his farm until it was a highly developed property, constituting one of the attractive features in the landscape in this section of the state. He first purchased a half section when he came to Clay county, obtaining this from the railroad company and on this he lived for six years. When he had completed payment thereon he bought other land, but all days in his career were not equally bright. At times difficulties and obstacles confronted him. While he was paying for the land he twice had his crops destroyed by hail, but he persevered and as the years passed success rewarded his efforts. In 1911 he retired from the farm and removed to Sutton, where he built a nice modern home and is now taking life easy.

It was in 1875 that Mr. Ebert was married to Miss Minnie Faucht, who was born in Germany and with her parents settled in Illinois in her girlhood days. Mr. and Mrs. Ebert have become parents of seven children: Rosa, the wife of Will Baass, a retired farmer, who worked along different lines in Sutton; George, living on the farm in Clay county; Ella, at home; Emma, the wife of John Ostrom, a railroad man of Lincoln, Nebraska; Will H., residing on the farm in Clay county; Edward, also on the old homestead farm; and Fred S., who like his brothers, is devoting his attention to farming on the land that was once a part of his father's section. The wife and mother passed away in 1909 in the faith of the Evangelical church, of which she was a consistent member. Mr. Ebert belongs to the same church and his political endorsement is given to the republican party. He has now long lived in Nebraska and while promoting his own interests, his labors have also constituted an important element in advancing the agricultural development of the state.

CHARLES J. McKEE

Charles J. McKee has passed the Psalmist's allotted span of threescore years and ten, for he has now reached the age of seventy-two years. He was born in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, July 5, 1849, and for many years was prominently connected with the business interests of Aurora as a druggist but is now living retired. His father, Alfred McKee, was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, January 25, 1821, and after arriving at years of maturity was married to Hannah Gibbons, whose birth occurred in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, September 9, 1825. They resided in Pennsylvania for a number of year and then removed to Illinois, where they spent their remaining days, the father devoting his attention to the occupation of farming. They were members of the Presbyterian church, loyal to its teachings and Mr. McKee was also a faithful follower of the Independent order of Odd

Fellows, while his political support was given to the democratic party. His wife died in 1866, while he survived until 1898. They were the parents of five children, three of whom are living: C. J.; Alfred, a lumberman residing in Chicago; and Herbert, who is located at Princeton, Illinois.

Charles J. McKee completed his education with a high school course in Princeton and when quite young became familiar with all the work of the home farm, assisting with its cultivation from the time of early spring planting until crops were harvested in the late autumn. In 1879 he became a resident of Aurora, then a new town upon the western frontier. Here he engaged in the grocery business for six years and then established a drug store which he conducted successfully until 1916. He then sold the business to Mr. Hartquest and the large two-story brick business block which he had erected he now rents to Mr. Hartquest. His business affairs have been most wisely, carefully and successfully conducted. He carried an extensive and well selected line of drugs and his straightforward dealings and earnest efforts to please his customers had brought to him an extensive patronage.

In 1890 Mr. McKee was married to Miss Mary Stiles, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of John D. and Mary Amanda (Gibbons) Stiles, who were also natives of the Keystone state. Her father was a very prominent and influential citizen there and for six years represented his district in congress. He was likewise an able attorney, numbered among the leading members of the bar of that state. Both he and his wife died in Pennsylvania. They were the parents of six children, of whom two are living: Mrs. McKee, and C. Frederick Stiles, now a broker of Allentown, Pennsylvania. His parents were members of the Episcopal church and Mr. Stiles belonged to the Masonic fraternity, while in politics he gave his support to the democratic party.

Mr. and Mrs. McKee have a family of three children: Clarence, a physician and surgeon of Geneva, Nebraska, who was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, after studying for two years at Lincoln. He became a Red Cross surgeon and was in Servia soon after his graduation. Later he was royally entertained in different places of Europe in recognition of the splendid work which he had done. Especially pleasing was his entertainment by the United States Minister, Magcuitial in Constantinople. Returning to the United States he entered Bellevue Hospital of New York, where he continued for two years and then joined the navy as a surgeon. He made fifteen trips across the ocean, thirteen of these trips being made on the steamer Wilhelmena. He received an honorable discharge from the navy in 1920 and then settled in Geneva, Nebraska, where he is now engaged in private practice. The daughters of the family are: Marie, who is a graduate of the State University and is now at home; and Blanche, who is attending the State University at Lincoln.

Mr. McKee is both a York and Scottish Rite Mason and member of the Mystic Shrine, while he and his wife are members of the order of the Eastern Star and Mrs. McKee is also a member of the Congregational church. Mr. McKee has served as secretary of both the Masonic lodge and chapter and he is also connected with the Knights of Pythias. He votes for the republican party, but has never been an office seeker, preferring to concentrate his efforts and attention upon his business affairs and perform his public duties as a private citizen. He

had but seventy-five dollars when he arrived in Aurora, but as the years passed won a most creditable measure of success and while he has retired from active business management he is still the owner of considerable property, including two business blocks and residence property, from which he derives a gratifying annual income. He enjoys the warm esteem of all who know him for he was ever accounted a progressive and thoroughly reliable merchant and his sterling traits of character have everywhere gained for him respect and confidence.

HENRY SMITH

A substantial and honored citizen of Hamilton county is Henry Smith, who has played well his part in connection with the civic and material development and upbuilding of this now opulent section of Nebraska, here has his share of pioneer distinction and here has prospered greatly through his long and resourceful association with farm industry. He is the owner of a large and valuable landed estate in the county, was one of the organizers and is a director of the Farmers State Bank of Marquette and is also a director of the Farmers Elevator Company of this village, where he has lived virtually retired since 1917.

Mr. Smith was born in that part of the German province of Schleswig, Germany, which was formerly a grand duchy of Denmark and the year of his nativity was 1853. He is a son of Paul J. and Augusta (Lund) Smith, who passed their entire lives in Schleswig. There Henry Smith was afforded the advantages of the common schools and there he continued his association with farm enterprise until 1873, when as an ambitious young man of twenty years he came to the United States, relying entirely upon his own resources in making his way to the plane of independence and economic prosperity. In Livingston county, Illinois, he found employment at farm work and received twenty-two dollars a month for his services, this having been considered high wages at that time. Later he was employed in coal mines in Illinois and in that state continued his residence until 1879, when he came to Hamilton county, Nebraska. He shipped two horses and one cow by rail to York, this state. For the first year he rented land, equipped with a sod house and straw barn and on this land harvested a corn crop from twenty acres. In 1880 he purchased for six dollars an acre a farm of eighty acres of railroad land, in Otis township. No improvements had been made on the land and here his first habitation was a sod house, with dirt roof and dirt floor. In addition to prosecuting vigorously the work of bringing his land under cultivation he also showed good judgment in setting out a fine orchard and planting a goodly number of forest trees in the early days. He has had his full share of hardships and trials, especially those consequent upon droughts, but with the passing years his earnest and determined efforts were crowned with success and his appreciation of the state of his adoption was shown in his gradual accumulation of more of the excellent land of Hamilton county, where he is now the owner of a well improved farm of three hundred and eighty acres, all available for cultivation. Two sets of excellent buildings are on this property and all other improvements are of high standard. In the disastrous year of 1894 Mr. Smith, like other settlers, was



MR. AND MRS. HENRY SMITH



compelled to resort to corn and cornstalks for fuel during the winter season and in the pioneer period took his wheat to a mill on the Platte river for grinding, similar trips also being made to Grand Island. He has been distinctly one of the progressive and representative agriculturists and stock raisers of Hamilton county, loyal and liberal in his civic attitude, and has so ordered his course as to merit and hold the unqualified esteem of his fellowmen. In politics he supports men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment, irrespective of strict partisan lines and while he has had no predilection for political activity or public office he served a number of years as director and moderator of his school district, while still residing on his farm. He and his wife are communicants of the Danish Lutheran church.

The Centennial year, 1876, witnessed the marriage of Mr. Smith to Miss Christena Peterson, who was born in Denmark and who was a resident of Illinois at the time of her marriage. Of this union have been born six children: Paul J. is a Lutheran missionary in Africa; Anna is the wife of Otto Ericson, who operates a fertilizing plant in the city of Omaha; Edward C. has active charge of one of his father's farms in Hamilton county; the next younger son, Harl, has charge of another of his father's farms; Carl is a farmer in Sheridan county; and Mena is the wife of Jorgen Anderson, likewise a farmer in Sheridan county.

CHARLES M. BROWN

Since 1886 Charles M. Brown has been connected with the newspaper business in Sutton, his father having purchased the Sutton Register in that year. He began as an office boy, then learned the printer's trade and gradually worked himself up from one position to another until he is now owner and editor of the Sutton Register, one of the best papers in Clay county.

A native of Sutton, Charles M. Brown was born in a sod house there May 20, 1874, a son of Francis Marion and Mary C. (Culver) Brown, both natives of Illinois. The father was born in Clark county, Illinois, December 20, 1840, a son of Samuel R. Brown, a native of Virginia. His mother was born in Kentucky. Francis Marion Brown was brought up on a farm and received a common school education in the country schools of the vicinity. In 1861 when President Lincoln called for volunteers he enlisted in Company B, Fourteenth Indiana, known in the history of the Civil war as one of the "three hundred fighting regiments," and participated in all the great campaigns and battles of the army of the Potomac under McClellan, Burnside, Hooker, Meade and Grant, never being absent a day from his regiment, from its organization to its final muster out at Indianapolis. At the close of the war he returned to Illinois, being one of eight out of the one hundred and twenty men in Company B who came back, and he engaged in farming and teaching school. In the spring of 1871 he came to Nebraska and located a homestead on the southeast quarter of section 10-8-5, four miles north of Sutton, and there engaged in farming. At that time Clay county was unorganized territory but in October, 1871, the county was organized and at the first election held Sutton was selected as the county seat and Francis Marion Brown was elected its

first county clerk and clerk of the district court. He served four years in these offices. He then resumed his farming, in addition raising stock and feeding and shipping until 1886, when he bought the Sutton Register which he owned and published until his death in 1919. Mr. Brown was prominent in the civic affairs of Sutton, having been that town's first mayor, serving three terms, and for nine terms he held the office of police judge. He cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln but became a democrat at the time Bryan was running for the presidency. The death of Mr. Brown occurred in 1919 and was an occasion of deep grief to his many friends throughout the community. His widow is still living and makes her home in Lincoln.

Charles M. Brown received his education in the Sutton public schools and after putting his textbooks aside went into the printing office of his father's paper, the Sutton Register. Mr. Brown has always followed the newspaper business, with every phase of which he is thoroughly familiar and upon the death of his father in 1919 he became owner and editor of the paper. It may be said of Mr. Brown that he is "to the manner born" and under his careful management the paper has steadily increased its already large circulation and has become an instrument of influence and importance to the community.

In 1901 Mr. Brown was married to Miss Marian E. Bishop, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of A. T. Bishop, a retired merchant. For many years Mr. Bishop was successfully engaged in conducting a general mercantile business in Wisconsin and Sutton.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Brown the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party, being a firm believer in the principles of that party as factors in good government. For twelve years he served in the office of city clerk. Fraternally he is identified with the Masons and Highlanders and his wife is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His entire time is devoted to his newspaper, which is conducted upon the highest and most honorable of principles and is one of the representative business interests of Clay county.

JACOB BARRICK

In the spring of 1873 there arrived in Hamilton county, Nebraska, an ambitious pioneer who had made the overland journey from Illinois with a team and covered wagon of the true "prairie schooner" type and en route this outfit was increased by the addition of two cows, which Jacob Barrick there purchased to add to the equipment of his new home. It was thus that Hamilton county gained Jacob Barrick as a citizen and well he played his part in the development of the resources of the county as a pioneer farmer. He is still the owner of one of the excellent farms of the county and has witnessed and taken part in the transformation of the virgin prairies into one of the garden spots of Nebraska. In coming to the new home Mr. Barrick made the trip in five weeks, a ferry-boat having conveyed his outfit across the Missouri river at Plattsmouth. Upon his arrival he took up a tree claim in Hamilton township, but later refiled on the land and perfected title to the same as a homestead. On this tract of unturned

prairie land he constructed a sod house of one room, with board roof and floor, the lumber having been hauled from Harvard, Clay county, and the first barn on the place likewise was of the sod type. Mr. Barrick broke most of the one hundred and sixty acres and in addition to preparing the soil for cultivation he also planted many trees, including an orchard, the fruit trees having largely died out in the passing years.

In the early days he did most of his freighting from Hastings, Grand Island and Harvard and five days were required to make the trip with grist to a mill at Milford. After having made good improvements on his original homestead Mr. Barrick sold the property to advantage and is now the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and forty acres, in Hamilton precinct. He suffered destruction of his crops by grasshoppers on three different occasions, met with almost equal loss during the droughts of 1893 and 1894 and had to resort to the various expedients that enabled other pioneers to overcome the difficulties and hardships which confronted them. He continued to give his personal supervision to the activities of his farm until 1910, when he removed to Aurora, the county seat, where he now owns and occupies an attractive residence on Thirteenth street and where he is living virtually retired. He is independent in politics and casts his vote in support of men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment, irrespective of strict partisan lines. He is affiliated with the Royal Highlanders and his wife, whose death occurred on February 28, 1909, was an earnest member of the Presbyterian church.

Jacob Barrick was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, April 9, 1846, and is a son of Jacob and Mary (Schwartz) Barrick, who removed from the old Keystone state to Illinois when he was a lad of six years and who passed the remainder of their lives in the latter state, where the father became a farmer. The subject of this review attended school in a little log schoolhouse in Illinois, but his studies were pursued principally during the winter terms, when his services were not in requisition on the home farm. He remained at the parental home until he initiated his independent career as a farmer in Ogle county, Illinois, and there he remained until the spring of 1873, when he came to Nebraska. His wife, whose maiden name was Ella Steffa, was born and reared in Illinois and she is survived by three children: David E. remains at the paternal home; Robert E. is a prosperous farmer in Sherman county; and Gertrude M. is the wife of Orville H. Stouffer of Aurora.

GEORGE F. WASHBURN

Since 1918 George F. Washburn has been cashier of the Citizens State Bank at Giltner, Hamilton county. In this connection he has become widely known in the financial circles of the county and has won the respect and confidence of all with whom he comes into contact. Like many other prominent citizens of Hamilton county, he is this state's son by adoption, his birth having occurred in Grant county, Wisconsin, April 27, 1866, his parents being George H. and Rachel A. Washburn. The father received a very good education for that day, attending school in Grant county, Wisconsin, and in due time entering a seminary. For

some time he engaged in teaching school in the vicinity of his home and then for some time followed his trade, which was that of a miller, in Grant county. Upon the outbreak of the Civil war he immediately tendered his services and enlisted in Company C, Twenty-fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry for the entire period of conflict. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea and nearly met death when a bullet lodged in his hat. At the time of his discharge he was a corporal. Returning to Wisconsin he was a member of the state legislature for a period of two years, at the expiration of which time he again engaged in the milling business. Deciding to come west he drove through to Hamilton county with two teams and two wagons, arriving there in 1878. The trip took over six weeks, as continued rains made travel at times impossible. Upon arriving in Hamilton county he purchased two hundred acres of railroad land, for which he paid six dollars an acre and his first improvements on this land consisted of a sod house of one room and a straw shed or barn. He broke his own land and planted shade trees. He brought this land to a highly cultivated state and later built a frame house and outbuildings and there resided until Giltner was started, when he removed to that new town and engaged in the hardware business. He continued in this business in which he achieved a substantial amount of success until his death in 1913. His wife, the mother of George F., passed away in 1914. Their marriage occurred in Wisconsin and they became parents of five children: Hattie, the wife of E. F. Simmons of Dundy county; George F., whose name initiates this review; Fred M., of Portland, Oregon, engaged in the conduct of shipbuilding yards; Nellie, whose death occurred in 1908; and Walter T., who is in the service of the Burlington railroad as extra agent. Throughout his life George H. Washburn was a stanch Methodist and his fraternal affiliations were with the Masons, being a member of the Royal Arch Masons and of the Grand Army of the Republic at Giltner. His death was the occasion of deep grief in the community and left a void that will be hard to fill.

George F. Washburn received his education in the common schools of Wisconsin, later attending the Normal School at Platteville, that state. He studied law and was admitted to practice before the bars of Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado. For some time he engaged in that profession in Oberlin, Kansas, and in Cripple Creek, Colorado, and served the latter city as deputy district attorney and city attorney and was there during the strike. He then entered banking circles, becoming an employe of the Trumbull State Bank at Trumbull, Nebraska, and for the last two years of his connection with the bank served in the capacity of its vice president. In 1918 he went to Giltner and there accepted the position of cashier in the Citizens Bank, which position he is now holding to the complete satisfaction of the patrons of the bank and the officers of that organization. Previous to his connection with the Citizens Bank he served as county judge of Hamilton county from 1906 to 1912.

In 1912 occurred the marriage of Mr. Washburn and Miss Adell K. Hoffmaster, a native of Nebraska, and to them one child, Helen, has been born. Mrs. Washburn is prominent in the club and social circles of Giltner and is likewise an active worker in the Methodist church, of which she is a consistent member.

The political support of Mr. Washburn is given to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. Fraternally he is identified with

the Masons. Mr. Washburn is readily conceded to be one of the foremost citizens of his community, his general efficiency and business sagacity making him a leader in every progressive movement, while his upright principles and integrity have won for him the esteem of all with whom he has had transactions.

F. A. THOMPSON

F. A. Thompson, filling the position of postmaster at Clay Center and numbered among the substantial and progressive residents of this section of the state, was born in Minnesota, October 26, 1861, and is a son of Samuel and Margaret J. (Miller) Thompson. He comes of early English and Scotch ancestry. The father was born in Pennsylvania and in an early day removed to Minnesota, driving an ox team across the country from eastern Iowa and purchasing land from the government after reaching his destination. The mother's birth occurred in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, and they became the parents of three children: Mrs. Laura Frankell, the wife of F. K. Frankell, engaged in the windmill and implement business at Stella, Nebraska; Addie, the wife of George Decker, manufacturer of tires and rubber at Columbus, Ohio; and F. A., of this review. The parents were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and passed away in that faith. The father was killed by lightning in the year 1863 and the mother, who long survived him, passed away at Clay Center in 1920, at the advanced age of eighty years, her birth having occurred in 1840. Mr. Thompson had devoted his entire life to the occupation of farming and had thus provided for the support of his family.

F. A. Thompson spent his youthful days on his father's farm in Minnesota and in Iowa and the common school system of the latter state supplied him with his educational opportunities. He afterward taught school for two years and then turned to commercial pursuits, being employed as a clerk in a drug store and thoroughly learning the business. He subsequently established a drug store on his own account in Clay Center in 1886 and is today the oldest druggist in the county. For a long period he has been associated with commercial interests here and his progressiveness and enterprise in this field has brought substantial returns.

In 1889 Mr. Thompson was married to Miss Elizabeth Moulton, who was born at Sandy Creek, New York, a daughter of Nelson M. Moulton, who arrived in Clay county in 1884 and cast in his lot with the early settlers of this section of the state. He became a furniture dealer of Clay Center and was thus active in business circles for a long period. To Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have been born two children: Hattie Elizabeth, the wife of Arthur H. Platt, who is connected with the Franklin Academy at Franklin, Nebraska, as a teacher of science; and Frances A., the wife of Dr. E. J. Homer, a practicing dentist of Chester, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are members of the Congregational church and the nature of his interests is further indicated in the fact that he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, becoming one of the charter members of the former. His political endorsement has always been given to the democratic party and in 1896 he was a delegate to the convention which nominated William Jennings Bryan for the presidency. In 1899

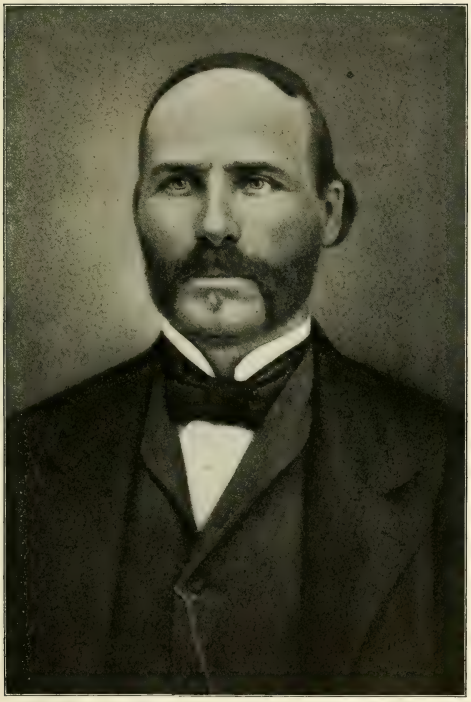
he served in the state legislature as a member of the twenty-sixth general assembly and gave thoughtful and earnest consideration to all the vital questions which came up for settlement during his connection with the house. He was for six years a member of the county board of supervisors and has been a most influential factor in county politics for many years. In 1916 he was appointed to the position of postmaster of Clay Center and was reappointed on the 4th of June, 1920, so that he has three years more to serve. He has made a most excellent record by the prompt and careful manner in which he has handled the mails and taken care of the duties of the office and over his entire official career there falls no shadow of wrong nor suspicion of evil.

THEODORE F. JOHNSON

Theodore F. Johnson was for years a well known figure in the business circles of Clay county and is now living retired in Harvard, enjoying the success which has come to him as the result of his own efforts. Like many other prominent men of Clay county, Mr. Johnson is a native of another state, his birth having occurred in New Jersey on the 26th of March, 1827, a son of William D. and Martha Johnson, also natives of that state. In later life they removed to Illinois and passed away in Fulton county. The father was for many years active in the conduct of an iron works in New Jersey, before moving to Illinois. Eight children were born to that union of whom Theodore F. is the only one living. They were consistent members of the Baptist church.

Theodore F. Johnson received few educational advantages and in the spring of 1864 enlisted in the Union army, joining Company E, Thirty-eighth Illinois Regiment. He was on guard duty for six months. After the close of the conflict and upon receiving his discharge he returned to Illinois and engaged in farming for a number of years. Subsequently he engaged in buying and shipping grain and also conducted a dry goods business for some time. In 1877 he made a trip to Clay county, but returned to Illinois, later making Clay county his permanent home. For several years, he came to Nebraska, spending part of the time each year here, and the rest of the time each year in Illinois. For some years he was engaged in the coal and grain business with his brother, Oakley Johnson, in which connection he achieved more than a substantial amount of success. He invested in some railroad land at the time when it was cheap, improved it and still retains six hundred and forty acres of land in Clay county, highly cultivated, it being divided into two farms of three hundred and twenty acres each.

In 1853 occurred the marriage of Mr. Johnson and Miss Elizabeth Martin, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of David Martin, who came to Illinois from Pennsylvania. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson: Luella, who is the widow of Byron Salisbury and lives with her father; and John W., a railroad man of Harvard. The death of Mrs. Johnson occurred in 1915 and came as a severe shock to her family and many friends in the community. She



THEODORE F. JOHNSON

had been for many years prominent in the church circles of Harvard as a member of the Christian church.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Johnson the right of franchise, he has been a stanch supporter of the republican party and the principles for which it stands. He is a consistent member of the Christian church and a generous contributor to its charitable organizations. As a business man his uniform courtesy, capability and personal worth won him popularity among his fellow townsmen and his success is the result of well directed energy and thrift.

C. B. HUFFMAN

C. B. Huffman, who for many years was prominently engaged in farming and stock raising in Hamilton county but has now put aside business cares and is living retired in Aurora, was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, February 24, 1855, his parents being Benjamin and Hannah (Beiber) Huffman, who were also natives of the Keystone state where they spent their entire lives, the father following the occupations of farming and shoemaking in support of his family which numbered wife and eleven children, ten of whom are yet living, but C. B. Huffman is the only representative of the family in Nebraska. The parents were members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Huffman gave his political support to the democratic party.

In the acquirement of his education C. B. Huffman attended the schools of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and afterward took up the profession of teaching, which he followed for seven terms in his native state. The year 1883 witnessed his arrival in Hamilton county where he spent one night at the home of a cousin and then went to the home of his uncle near Giltner, remaining with him for two years. He taught school during his second winter in Nebraska but soon became identified with agricultural pursuits. He first purchased eighty acres of railroad land, section 25, Deepwell township, which he developed and improved and within a year he had made such progress that he bought eighty acres more adjoining the original tract. He had a sod house on his place and later erected a frame dwelling on the west eighty acres. Year by year he carefully tilled the soil, bringing his farm under a high state of cultivation and adding thereto many improvements. He still owns this property which is one of the valuable farms of the district. While residing thereon he engaged extensively in raising hogs and this constituted an important branch of his business. While he was in possession of but eighty dollars when he came to the county he steadily worked his way upward along financial lines and is now possessed of a comfortable competence which is the merited reward of his industry and perseverance.

In May, 1885, Mr. Huffman was married to Miss Tillie Stahlnecker, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of Samuel and Lizzie (Huffman) Stahlnecker, who came to Hamilton county in 1874 and here spent their remaining days. Mrs. Huffman's maternal grandfather was Daniel C. Huffman, who arrived in Hamilton county in 1872 and acquired a whole section of land for four dollars and a half per acre. He continued to reside thereon throughout his remaining days and

reached the advanced age of eighty-four years. He first lived in one of the old-time sod houses with grass roof. Mrs. Huffman's parents lived in a dugout during her girlhood days, their home being three miles north of Giltner and there her father passed away. He was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church and one of the best known and most successful residents of the county in his day. Her people were here at the time when the early settlers worshipped in a little sod church and when the children were sent to a sod schoolhouse.

To Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Huffman were born four children: Effie, the wife of L. E. Luthy, who lives in Aurora; Flo, the wife of L. E. Hafer, residing on a farm near Giltner; Bruce, who is employed in a garage in Aurora. Bruce was in the World war, was wounded two different times and participated in the battle of the Argonne and other battles, remaining in France for six months. He was married May 6, 1919, to Miss Frances Burt and they have one child, namely, Rose Maxin, the only grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Huffman; and Violett, who works for the Lincoln Star in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Huffman are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and his political allegiance is given to the democratic party. He and his wife removed to Aurora in 1915, at which time he purchased a residence at 803 M street which he remodeled and converted into an attractive and pleasant home. He still owns his farm property, deriving therefrom a substantial annual income. Both he and his wife have been connected with the county from pioneer times, have seen the greater part of its growth and development and have always borne their part in support of those interests which are a matter of civic virtue and of civic pride.

HENRY J. HAGEMAN

Henry J. Hageman has since 1887 made his home on a farm on section 7, Scoville township, Hamilton county, where he now resides. His entire life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits and his birth occurred on a farm in McDonough county, Illinois, in 1858. He was reared as a farm bred boy, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops, while in the winter season his attention was given to the acquirement of his education in the common schools.

On attaining his majority Mr. Hageman started out in life on his own account and about that time was married, on the 16th of November, 1879, to Miss Frances Elsie Quiggle. Following their marriage the young couple began domestic life on an eighty acre farm which they occupied until the fall of 1887. Mr. Hageman then purchased four cows, chickens and provisions and he and his wife settled on the farm which is still his property. For this he paid twenty dollars per acre, securing a tract of one hundred and twenty acres. There was a small frame house on the land, also a little stable, but otherwise he made all of the improvements on the property and today is the owner of two hundred acres of land devoted to general grain farming and to the raising of high grade cattle and hogs. He annually produces substantial crops and his stock raising interests are likewise a feature in his success.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hageman have been born four children: Roseta, now the wife of Archie Haggard, of Trumbull, Nebraska; William, at home; Mabel, the wife of Ernest Lutze of Clay county; and Henry Ross, also at home. Mrs. Hageman is a member of the Christian church, and he holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Hageman also belongs to the Modern Woodmen. He has served as school treasurer and also as school director for several years and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion, but he has not been desirous of filling public positions, preferring to concentrate his efforts and attention upon his business affairs, and in addition to his farming he has become a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator and is a member of the Farmers' Union. During his long residence in the county he has gained a wide acquaintance and the sterling worth of his character is recognized by all who know him.

JOSEPH LAND

Joseph Land, now deceased, whose contribution to the upbuilding of Hamilton county was along the line of agricultural development, was born in St. Clair county, Illinois, August 14, 1848, and his life record covered the intervening years to the 14th of October, 1911, when he passed away in Marquette. In his early boyhood the family home was established in Missouri and there he was reared and educated. Before reaching the age of sixteen years he enlisted for service in the Civil war, becoming a member of the Third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of hostilities. He was seriously wounded at Dallas, Georgia, soon after entering the service and was sent to a hospital. While there gangrene set in and he also suffered from smallpox, but his splendid constitution at length triumphed over wounds and disease and he finally recovered. After the war he returned to Wisconsin, where he continued to make his home until 1867.

It was in that year that Mr. Land arrived in Hamilton county and took up a homestead in a district where the work of progress and civilization seemed scarcely begun. Few indeed were the settlers living within the borders of the county and little had been accomplished in the way of converting the wild lands into rich and productive farms. After entering his homestead he returned to Wisconsin but again came to Nebraska in 1869 and obtained a government claim. He first had eighty acres, which he afterward sold and later bought more land, becoming owner of one hundred and sixty acres, of which he afterward sold forty acres. His widow is still the owner of eighty acres of this tract. For a time he lived on his farm and later took up his abode in Marquette, Nebraska, but continued to cultivate his land. He was for thirty-nine years a resident of Marquette and was identified with the county altogether for about forty-two years.

It was in Wisconsin, in 1866, that Mr. Land was married to Miss Martha Crooks, who was born in England and was but two years of age when brought across the Atlantic by her parents, William and Phoebe (Jeffs) Crooks, who were also natives of England and on coming to the new world settled in Canada. There they resided until 1873, when they removed to this state and took up a homestead in Clay county, having journeyed westward from Wisconsin in a covered wagon.

Mr. Crooks had two good teams of horses and two covered wagons when he came here and two of his sons were old enough to assist him in the arduous task of breaking the sod and developing a new farm. In the Crooks family were six children, five of whom are living: Mrs. Land; Mrs. Mary Day, whose home is in Emporia, Kansas; John T., a carpenter living in Arizona; C. Fremont, who follows carpentering at Quincy, Kansas; and Mrs. Lovina Lake, residing in Dallas, Texas.

To Mr. and Mrs. Land were born six children who are yet living: Charles Bert, a farmer residing near Central City, Nebraska; Mrs. Sarah Moore, whose husband is a farmer of Wisconsin; James E., who follows farming at Thedford, Nebraska; Mrs. Ida Gion, living in Marquette, where her husband follows carpentering and farming; Mrs. Lois Robbins, whose husband is an auto painter at Chappell, Nebraska; and William, who carries on agricultural pursuits near Marquette.

Mr. Land was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Improved Order of Red Men and the Grand Army of the Republic and through the last named maintained pleasant relations with his old military comrades. In politics he was always a republican from the time that age conferred upon him the right of franchise, but he never sought nor desired political preferment. He passed through all the hardships and privations of pioneer life, making the best possible use of his time, talents and opportunities and kindly neighbors rendered him and his wife every possible assistance as they were gaining their start—kindnesses which they never forgot and which they repaid as opportunity offered. Mr. Land was highly esteemed as a man of genuine worth and of thorough reliability. He had many admirable traits of character and the warm regard in which he was uniformly held was well merited. Mrs. Land is a loyal member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1912 she left Marquette, where she had so long resided, and removed to Aurora, where she owns and occupies an attractive home amid pleasant surroundings.

HENRY HAGEMEISTER

Among the valued and progressive citizens of Hamilton county is Henry Hagemeister, who is now residing on his two hundred and forty acre farm in Aurora township. He was born in Germany on the 1st of October, 1861, and after the death of his father came with his mother and the remainder of the family to America, arriving in this country in 1870. The family first located in Wisconsin.

Henry Hagemeister received his education in Wisconsin, where he was reared to manhood and remained until 1881, when he set out for the west and located in Hamilton county, Nebraska. He worked out on farms for one year and by putting the greater part of his money aside, at the termination of that time was able to purchase eighty acres of land at five dollars an acre. There were no improvements on the place, but it did not take Mr. Hagemeister long to put the land on a paying basis. A man of great force and determination he allowed no

obstacle to remain long in his path and he is now in possession of two hundred and eighty acres of fine land, from the cultivation of which he derives a substantial income. He has always engaged in general farming and is recognized as one of the foremost agriculturists of the community.

Mr. Hagemeister has ever followed an independent course in politics, voting for the man without regard to party. His religious faith is that of the Evangelical church. Although Mr. Hagemeister was but a poor boy when he came to this county he has, by his own determination and industry, become a successful farmer and financially independent.

JOHN A. RUTHERFORD

In section 20 of Orville township, Hamilton county, is to be found the excellently improved and productive farm which represents the material evidence of the prosperity that has attended the well directed efforts of John A. Rutherford in connection with the development of the agricultural resources of this county, which has been his place of residence for nearly forty years and in which he thus has pioneer honors. He now rents his farm of one hundred and sixty acres, but still resides on the place and in addition to owning this valuable property is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company at Stockham, his home being on rural mail route No. 2, from that village.

Mr. Rutherford was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, on the 13th of May, 1856, and is a son of John and Jane (Allison) Rutherford, sterling pioneer settlers of that section of the Badger state. The parents were born and reared in Edinburgh, Scotland, where their marriage was solemnized and in the later '40s they completed the voyage of seven weeks' duration across the Atlantic to America, by medium of a sailing vessel of the type common to ocean navigation in that period. They proceeded direct to Wisconsin, where the father purchased one hundred and sixty acres of heavily timbered land, in Dane county, and instituted the reclamation of a farm. Nebraska pioneers, while they endured their quota of heavy labors and untoward hardships, at least did not face the herculean task of felling forest trees, removing stumps and otherwise taxing their powers in making their land available for cultivation and it was under such pioneer conditions in Wisconsin that the subject of this review was reared, the place of his birth being a log house and his early experiences were gained in connection with the arduous work of the home farm. His parents remained in Wisconsin until their death and both were earnest members of the Presbyterian church, the mother having died when her son, John A., was a boy of five years.

Mr. Rutherford profited duly by the advantages afforded in the rural schools of his native county, where he thereafter continued to be associated with his father in the work of the home farm until he had attained to the age of twenty-two years. He then gained brief experience in connection with pioneer life in the present state of South Dakota, but in 1883 came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, and at the rate of fifteen dollars per acre purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres and turned himself with characteristic vigor to the develop-

ment of a productive farm. Well did he succeed in the passing years, though he met with losses through grasshoppers and droughts and faced many other adverse conditions in the early days. On his farm his first dwelling was a little frame house, fourteen by twenty feet in dimensions and personally he broke forty acres of his land. Upon this farm he has made the best of improvements, including the erection of good buildings, but the orchard which he planted has now almost entirely died out. Mr. Rutherford continued his vigorous and successful activities as an agriculturist and stock raiser until he had become so placed in a financial way as to justify his semi-retirement, with the result that for more than a decade he has rented his land to desirable tenant farmers. He has taken lively interest in the social and industrial advancement of the county and state of his adoption and has here kept pace with the march of progress. He has had no desire for political activity or public office but is found aligned in the ranks of the republican party.

In Dane county, Wisconsin, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Rutherford to Miss Anna McCaughey, who, like himself, was born and reared in that county, she being a daughter of William and Rebecca (Kapper) McCaughey, the former of whom was a native of Scotland and a pioneer farmer of Dane county, Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford have no children.

LORENZO R. CHAPMAN

Lorenzo R. Chapman, for many years prominent in agricultural circles of Clay county as a successful farmer and stock raiser, passed away at his home here on the 12th of March, 1894. He was born in Portage county, Ohio, on the 25th of January, 1834, a son of Chauncey and Martha (Maynard) Chapman, both natives of Connecticut.

Lorenzo R. Chapman received his education in the county of his nativity and at the age of seventeen years learned the trade of a blacksmith. He entered the shop of Wilson Messenger, where he remained for two years, and then started out as a journeyman, working at first under instruction and finally settling in Ravenna, Ohio, where he became connected with the carriage factory of N. D. Clarke & Company. For two years he was active in that connection and then went to Trumbull county, that state, where for some time he was employed in another carriage factory. In 1858 he went to Michigan and Wisconsin looking for farm land but returned home without purchasing. In the fall of 1859 he removed to Missouri and with his brother, Charles H., settled in what was then the village of Macon City, where he followed his trade until going to Kirksville, Adair county, Missouri, in the spring of 1860, and there working at his trade. Mr. Chapman was a stanch supporter of the Union cause and in the fall of 1860, becoming alarmed at the hostility evinced by the sympathizers of the Southern cause, he removed to Palmyra, Missouri, and after staying there but a short time went to Adams county, Illinois, where on the 4th day of May, 1861, he enlisted in the Union army. On the 24th of that month he was mustered into the United States service by Captain Pitcher, in Company H, Sixteenth Illinois Infantry,



FARM OF MR. AND MRS. LORENZO R. CHAPMAN

under the command of Captain William Petrie and Colonel C. F. Smith, serving in the Western Division, chiefly in Missouri. He participated in many important engagements and was with General Pope at the capture of Island No. 10. He was in the battle at Stone River and the Atlanta and Chattanooga campaigns, also the battle of Kenesaw Mountain and had reached Raleigh, North Carolina, when news of Lee's surrender and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln reached the troops. He took part in the grand review on Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, D. C., at the close of the war and was then sent to Louisville, Kentucky, where he received his discharge on the 8th of July, 1865. He served throughout the struggle as a private and non-commissioned officer and was mustered out wearing the stripes of sergeant.

After the regiment was disbanded at Springfield, Illinois, Mr. Chapman located in Quincy, that state, and engaged in working in a machine shop for the firm of Sylvester & Wardell. In the fall of 1865 he went to Andrew county, Missouri, and there purchased three hundred and twenty-seven acres of land for himself and brothers, Charles H., Robert R. and Thomas C. During the winter of 1865-6 Mr. Chapman worked in the city of St. Joseph in company with a Mr. Dempsey, part of the time, and then in the wagon factory of E. Dutton. In the spring of 1866 he returned to Hiram, Ohio, and there engaged in blacksmithing until the spring of 1868, when he again went to Missouri. In the fall of 1872 he removed to Clay county, Nebraska, and here secured a homestead. He resided on that place until his death in 1894. His home was a large and comfortable one and was one of the show places of the county. The barn and granaries were large and well filled, and he had a good bearing orchard of one hundred and fifty apple trees. He planted a large peach orchard of one thousand trees, but this died as the result of excessively cold winters. The residence encircled by a beautiful grove containing eight thousand shade trees, was indeed a beautiful place, and the four hundred acres which he owned was all tillable and well watered, therefore easily cultivated.

On the 6th of March, 1874, occurred the marriage of Mr. Chapman to Miss Selona A. Newcomb, a native of Portage county, Ohio, and a daughter of Timothy and Frinda (Goodell) Newcomb, who were also born in that state. In the Newcomb family were seven children, of whom four are now living: Selona A., Frinda M., who is the wife of O. C. Hubble of Deweese, Nebraska; W. F., formerly a minister but now a well known and successful farmer of Santa Cruz, California; and Patty L., who is the wife of Warren L. Sheets, a farmer of Clay county, living near Fairfield. Mr. and Mrs. Sheets have a son, Hallie, who is county engineer and was graduated from Drake College at Des Moines, Iowa, in 1914.

For nine years following her husband's death Mrs. Chapman made her home with her sister, Mrs. Sheets, and then became the wife of Dr. Alex C. Sabin, a prominent physician and surgeon of Beatrice, Nebraska. She was born in Ohio, August 4, 1845, and received her education in Hiram College, being for many years a teacher in the district schools of that state. In 1874 she came to Clay county, Nebraska, with her husband, Mr. Chapman, and for two years, they made their home in a sod shanty, while the next seven years were spent in a cellar and then Mr. Chapman erected a fine

frame house. They lived on that farm for twenty years. No children were born to them but they reared two of Mr. Chapman's nieces, Miriam F. and Lucy I. Chapman. Mrs. Sabin is again a widow, the death of her second husband having occurred in 1910. They lived for the most part in Beatrice and Fairfield, but traveled extensively and spent two winters in California. Before her second marriage, Mrs. Sabin made two trips to Europe and she is a highly educated and intellectual woman. She is an artist of much ability and her home is tastefully decorated with pictures of her own painting. She often gives lectures to her friends and neighbors on her trips abroad and is a very interesting, clear and concise speaker. She is prominent in the club circles of Fairfield and is very active in the affairs of the Woman's Club. In the work of the Christian Church she takes an active part and she is conceded to be a most representative citizen.

Throughout life Mr. Chapman was a strong prohibitionist and his religious faith was that of the Christian church. He was a stanch supporter of the republican party and for several terms held the office of school director. He was a prominent and active member of the Farmers' Alliance and was connected with many other activities of an agricultural nature in Clay county, of which he was one of the early settlers. He was justly entitled to the proud American title of self-made man. He was a man of grim determination and allowed no obstacles, however great, long to remain in his path. It was through his own endeavor and hard work that he accumulated his possessions.

S. A. FISCHER

Since 1907 S. A. Fischer has been proprietor and editor of the Sutton News, one of the leading newspapers in the community and one widely known for its timely editorials and honorable business policies. Mr. Fischer was born in Grand Island in 1882, a son of Rev. August and Augusta (Reinke) Fischer, both natives of Germany. The father came to the United States in 1868 and settled in Wisconsin. He was educated in Germany and there studied to be a minister of the Evangelical church and served in that capacity for many years. Since 1915 Mr. Fischer has made his home in Sutton, where he is living retired. His wife is also living. To them nine children have been born, eight of whom are living, but only two residing in Sutton, namely: Hulda, who is the wife of J. J. Bowen who is engaged in the harness business in Sutton; and S. A. Fischer, the subject of this review. Rev. Mr. Fischer is a republican in politics and a firm believer in the principles of that party as factors in good government.

S. A. Fischer is indebted to the schools of Grand Island for his education and his first occupation after leaving school was that of clerk in a general store at Fairfield, Nebraska. He then entered a printing office there and later spent a number of years in Washington state in newspaper offices. During all of these years he was thoroughly acquainting himself with the newspaper business and in 1907, upon removing to Sutton, he purchased the Sutton News and is still conducting that sheet. The paper has a circulation of over nine hundred and is very popular with the people in the community. Its policies are the best and it gives to its readers many editorials as well as news of a valuable and interesting nature. The newspaper is always foremost in the support of every public movement

which Mr. Fischer deems of necessity to the development and improvement of the town and surrounding vicinity. Mr. Fischer conducts a job printing office in connection with the newspaper and does a large business. He has never married.

Politically Mr. Fischer is a stanch republican in the interests of which party he takes an active part. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, in the affairs of which lodge he takes a prominent part. Mr. Fischer devotes his entire time to his newspaper and has, as a result of careful and intelligent management on his part, won the goodwill and confidence of his fellowmen.

GEORGE N. PIERCE

The vigorous optimism begotten of self-reliance has been significantly manifested in the career of the now venerable and highly honored pioneer citizen of Hamilton county, George N. Pierce. Here he proved himself well fortified for the responsibilities, labors and trials that marked the pioneer days and his loyalty has at all times been on a par with that which he showed in his gallant service as a soldier of the Union in the Civil war. Mr. Pierce had limited educational advantages in his youth and has been in a distinct sense the architect of his own fortunes, so that it is gratifying to record that through his long association with farm enterprise in Hamilton county he has achieved independence and substantial prosperity.

Mr. Pierce was born in DuPage county, Illinois, on the 5th of June, 1849, and is a son of Palmer and Ruth (Wightman) Pierce, both of whom were natives of Ohio and both of whom died when their son, George N., of this review, was a mere boy, he having been twelve years old when he was taken into the home of his maternal grandmother and little older when he began to depend upon his own resources by working for his board and clothing. Under these conditions his schooling was meager and irregular, but in the great school of experience he has been able effectively to overcome this handicap of early years. He grew to mature years in the state of Minnesota, where his grandmother resided and thus gained pioneer experience in that section of the great northwest. He was too young to enter service in the earlier stages of the Civil war, but in 1864, when fifteen years of age, he enlisted as a private in Company E, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. His enlistment took place at St. Paul, Minnesota, but he was mustered in at Little Rock, Arkansas, in which state he took part in the battle of Pine Bluff and participated also in a number of skirmishes and other minor engagements, the major part of his service having been that of guard duty and he received his honorable discharge after having been in the ranks of the "boys in blue" for a period of about nine months. After this phase in his career Mr. Pierce returned to Illinois and later worked on pioneer farms in the state of Iowa, at an average compensation of from eighteen to twenty-five dollars per month. Thereafter he passed one year in Missouri and in 1873 came to Nebraska. After remaining for a time in Adams county he came to Hamilton county, before the close of the year mentioned, and it was in this county that his wife took up a homestead of eighty acres in that year, their marriage having occurred in 1879, after she had perfected title to her land and proved herself a gallant and determined pioneer woman. Mrs. Pierce

was born and reared in Pennsylvania, her maiden name having been Hannah Townsley, and in 1873, as a young woman of spirit and courage, she came from the old Keystone state to number herself among the pioneers of Hamilton county, Nebraska. From Harvard was transported overland the lumber with which she built the small frame house on her claim and the original barn was of pole and straw construction. Since their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Pierce have continued to reside on this homestead in section 26, Union township, and together they resolutely bore the trials and labors of pioneers. Mr. Pierce drove from Missouri to Hamilton county with team and wagon and in the early days hunted antelopes and other wild game in this section, besides which he made hunting trips in the wilds of the western part of the state, where on one occasion he killed a buffalo calf. He obtained early fuel from trees along a neighboring creek and at times had to resort to the use of corn and cornstalks for fuel. Harvard was his principal trading point and in taking grist to mill in York county the overland trip required two days. Mr. Pierce states that when grasshoppers descended upon his farm at one time they destroyed all vegetation above ground and even made away with the onions that were growing partly beneath the soil.

Mr. and Mrs. Pierce have four children: Elizabeth is the wife of Charles Turner, a successful farmer of Hamilton county; Frank D. is a carpenter and contractor at Chappell, Deuel county; Curtis conducts an automobile garage at Harvard, Clay county; and Thomas M. remains with his parents and has active charge of the old home farm, in section 26, Union township. The home receives service on rural mail route No. 2 from the village of Giltner.

Mr. Pierce has been loyal and liberal in his civic attitude, commands unqualified popular esteem, is a republican in politics, and is affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic. He and his wife remain on their farm and their circle of friends is coextensive with that of their acquaintances. Mr. Pierce has served as road overseer, an office of which he continued the incumbent seven years and he has been an active and valued member of the local Farmers Union.

JOSEPH HENNINGER

Joseph Henninger, who passed away on June 26, 1913, was prominently identified with the business interests of Edgar, where he was well known for a long period as a representative and substantial citizen. He was born in Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, on the 18th of August, 1854, and there resided with his parents until he was eighteen years of age. He came to the United States in that year and located at St. Louis, Missouri, where he completed the mastering of the cobbler's trade. In 1876 he removed to Edgar, Clay county, and there opened a shop in a small frame building. His business grew to extensive proportions and in 1899 he built a much larger place in which to house his workshop. Mr. Henninger continued this line of work until June 26, 1913, when his death occurred, his passing taking from Edgar one of her pioneer and representative citizens.

In Elsah, Illinois, while working there for a short time, Mr. Henninger met Miss Amelia Serini, and on the 1st of March, 1878, they were united in marriage

at Sutton, Nebraska. Her parents were Christopher and Bertha (Putch) Serini, both natives of Germany, who came to the United States at an early day and located in Clay county in 1876. He was a prominent man in that community, where for a number of years he conducted a hotel and in addition to that property he owned much land and other town property in Edgar. Both Mr. and Mrs. Serini passed away in Edgar. Thirteen children were born to their union, eleven girls and two boys, five of whom are living: Henrietta, who is the widow of John Bosler and lives in New Baden, Illinois; Maria, who is the widow of Joe Vautraim and lives in the Commercial hotel at Edgar; Otto, who makes his home with Mrs. Henninger; Jennie, who is the widow of C. W. Brown and makes her home with her sister; and Mrs. Henninger. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Henninger but all died in infancy. They adopted one son, Clyde Edgar Henninger, who runs a music store at Everett, Massachusetts, and also reared two nieces: Ora Serini, who is now the wife of R. I. Shibiya of Omaha, Nebraska; and Amanda, the wife of Wilbur Potter, a garage man of California.

Throughout his life Mr. Henninger was a stanch supporter of the republican party and his fraternal affiliations were with the Modern Woodmen and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His religious faith was that of the Catholic church and Mrs. Henninger is a consistent member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Henninger was one of the oldest pioneer residents of Edgar and he watched its development from a sparsely settled community to one of large proportions, prosperous and successful. He was a frugal, hardworking man and made his way by diligence and industry and an unquestionable honesty. Mr. Henninger never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he found the opportunities which he sought and made for himself a creditable place among the representative citizens of his community.

L. E. PILLARD

L. E. Pillard, a retired farmer residing in Aurora, was born in France, December 22, 1847, and is a son of James and Susan (Laude) Pillard, who were also natives of that country, where they were reared and married, coming to the United States with their family in 1854. They settled at Dubuque, Iowa, and there the father engaged in farming, owning a good tract of land. His wife died in that state and he afterward returned to his native country, where his remaining days were passed. Both were members of the Lutheran church and while in America Mr. Pillard gave his political support to the republican party. Their family numbered eight children, four sons and four daughters.

L. E. Pillard was reared on the home farm in Dubuque county, Iowa, and pursued his education in the schools of that state, he being only seven years of age when the family home was established in the new world. He came to Nebraska in 1874 and took up a timber claim in Hamilton county. He then improved the farm and lived thereon until 1915, when he established his home in Aurora. He built a small frame house on the farm, added other improvements and carried on the work of tilling the soil most successfully for many years, bringing his land

under a high state of cultivation. He still retains the ownership of his farm which comprises two hundred acres of good land and since taking up his abode in Aurora in February, 1915, he has purchased a lot and erected a nice home at No. 510 Elm street. In addition to these properties he owns a farm in Perkins county, comprising one hundred and sixty acres and his success has come to him as the direct and merited reward of close application, indefatigable energy and sound business judgment.

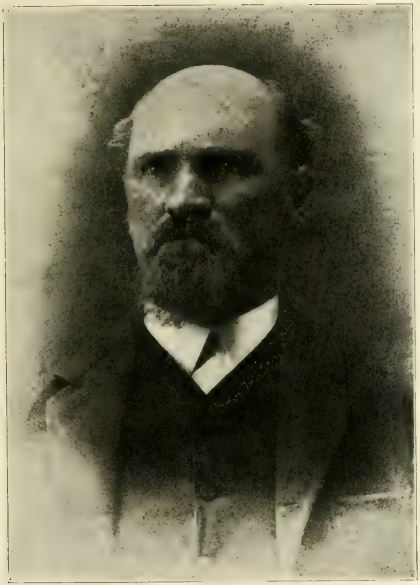
In the fall of 1878 Mr. Pillard was married to Miss Eveline Bartholmew who was born in Iowa, a daughter of Ezra and Margaret (Mansfield) Bartholmew, the former a native of Michigan and the latter of Indiana. They came to Hamilton county in 1872 and Mr. Bartholmew secured a government claim, continuing his residence in the state until death called him. Mr. Bartholmew was a soldier of the Civil war, serving in an Iowa regiment in defense of the Union for about nine months. He and his wife were members of the Christian church and his political endorsement was given to the republican party. They had a family of ten children, of whom four are living, Mrs. Pillard being the eldest. She has one brother, Charles Bartholmew, who is a resident of Custer county, Nebraska, while another brother, George, is a resident of Gordon, Nebraska, and is a physician.

To Mr. and Mrs. Pillard have been born seven children: Lucy, the wife of Thomas Julian, a farmer residing in Montana; Emily, the wife of James Larson, a resident farmer of Custer county, Nebraska; Pearl, the wife of Walter Herbig, who is operating her father's farm in Hamilton county; Cora, the wife of George Thompson, a farmer of Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska; Blanche, the wife of Wesley Pringo, a hardware dealer at Grant, Perkins county, Nebraska; George, who lives on a farm in Perkins county; and Grace, who is a teacher in the country schools and remains with her parents.

In religious faith Mr. and Mrs. Pillard are Presbyterians and fraternally he is connected with the Royal Highlanders. He votes with the republican party but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. His time and energy have been concentrated upon his farming interests and the careful management thereof has brought to him a gratifying measure of prosperity. Almost a half century has passed since he took up his abode in Hamilton county and through the intervening period he has witnessed much of its growth and development and has at all times borne his share in the work of general progress and improvement.

JAMES F. ADAMS

The genius of success as implied in determined purpose and a readiness to work consecutively in the effort to realize that purpose was possessed in an eminent degree by the honored pioneer, James F. Adams. Mr. Adams and his wife faced and overcame the trials and obstacles that marked the pioneer period in the history of Hamilton county and since the death of her husband Mrs. Adams has continued her residence on the old homestead farm that is endeared to her by many gracious memories and associations, this attractive rural home



JAMES F. ADAMS

being situated in section 20, South Platte township, on rural mail route No. 3 from the village of Marquette.

James F. Adams was born in Randolph county, Indiana, in the year 1835, and thus was seventy-eight years of age at the time of his death, on the 23d of April, 1913. He was reared and educated in the old Hoosier state and at the age of eighteen years gained pioneer experience in Iowa, to which section of the Union he made his way overland, with team and wagon. The same medium of transportation was used when he returned to the east and established his residence in Ohio, where, in 1857, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Edieth Wiley, who was born in Wayne county, Indiana, on the 11th of January, 1840, and who is now one of the venerable and revered pioneer women of Hamilton county, Nebraska. After his marriage Mr. Adams returned to Iowa and there he and his wife resided until 1872, when they came to Nebraska, with Hamilton county as their destination. They drove through from Iowa with teams of mules and horses and brought with them a number of head of cattle, their arrival having been in the year of the great Easter blizzard that held this section snowbound for three or more days. In the spring of 1873 Mr. Adams filed entry on a homestead in what is now South Platte township and at the time he and his wife here established their home in a rude dugout house their nearest neighbor was two miles distant, not a house was to be seen between their embryonic farm and the Platte river and no railroad had as yet entered the county. In this little dugout fourteen persons found shelter during the three days of the memorable Easter blizzard and eventually a sod house replaced the dugout. This sod house was warm and comfortable and seemed most pretentious in comparison with the earlier dwelling. In the early days when conditions were such as to permit crossing the Platte river the settlement of Lone Tree was their nearest trading point and they replenished their table at intervals with the deer and antelopes which Mr. Adams brought down with his rifle. He also killed one or more buffaloes in the district not far to the west of Aurora, the county seat of Hamilton county. The homestead was too far removed from the river to be troubled with visits from the Indians, who made their pilgrimages along the course of the streams. The original homestead obtained by Mr. Adams comprised eighty acres and at the time of his death he was the owner of a finely improved farm property of two hundred acres, representing the results of his earnest and well directed labors as a pioneer agriculturist and stock raiser and a progressive and reliable citizen of the county to whose civic and industrial development he contributed his part. Two years after establishing his home in the county Mr. Adams added to the area of his landed estate by purchasing a relinquishment from two young men who wished to return to Iowa and on this he filed entry as a tree claim. The trees which he planted in conformity with the provisions made in connection with such claims now constitute a fine grove along the north side of the Adams farm. In planting this grove Mr. Adams made the trip to Nuckolls county to obtain walnut trees and planted also a goodly number of box elders, this grove now constituting one of the pleasing pioneer landmarks in Hamilton county.

Mr. and Mrs. Adams became the parents of the following children: Mary Jane is the wife of A. G. Johnston and they reside in the state of Idaho;

Elizabeth is the wife of W. F. Hixon, of Chase county, Nebraska; Thomas is a representative farmer in Merrick county; Frank is now a resident of Washington, D. C.; Charles has the active management of the old home farm, of which he is the owner, and with him lives his widowed mother, who is the object of the utmost filial devotion on the part of her children.

Mr. Adams was a man of fine personality and marked ability, so that he was called upon to assume much of leadership in community sentiment and action and was influential in local affairs. He served with characteristic fidelity and ability as a member of the board of county commissioners and was a member of the board at the time when, on the 15th of December, 1877, it took definite action in establishing the precinct boundaries of the county. A good man and true, sincere and upright in all the relations of life, Mr. Adams commanded uniform confidence and esteem and the home community manifested a sense of personal loss and bereavement when he was summoned from the stage of life's mortal endeavors. In politics Mr. Adams was a stanch populist, and his religious faith, a dominating force in his life, was that of the Christian church, of which his widow likewise is an earnest member.

W. F. HOLCOMB

W. F. Holcomb, of Clay Center, who has been prominently connected with chicken raising since 1903 and who is also successfully engaged in the raising of Jersey cattle, was born in Shelby county, Iowa, November 14, 1859, a son of Z. B. and Eunice (Hankins) Holcomb, the former a native of Ohio, while the latter was born in Missouri. They were married in Iowa and Mr. Holcomb, who was a farmer by occupation, spent much of his time in Iowa until 1894, when he came to Clay county. Here he is now living retired at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. He has held some local offices, the duties of which he has discharged with promptness and fidelity, and his political support has always been given to the republican party. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and both he and his wife are members of the Christian church. They reared a family of five children: W. F.; Mrs. G. W. Orr, living in California; Mrs. Mary Miller, who is the wife of Frank Miller and a resident of Clay Center; Mrs. E. W. Orr, also of Clay Center; and Mrs. Price Scott, who is a resident of California.

After acquiring his education in the schools of Iowa, W. F. Holcomb took up the occupation of farming in that state and in 1894 removed to Nebraska, settling at Clay Center, although in the meantime he had spent a few years in Missouri. Here he established a business in the raising of full blooded poultry in 1903. He furnishes eggs and has people raise chickens for him, after which he makes shipments to all parts of the United States, handling all the best varieties of poultry. He owns considerable land and has eighty head of registered Jersey cattle, which he ships to all sections of the United States. Recently he held a sale, disposing of thirty-eight head of fine blooded stock, and is raising and developing young stock. He is particularly well known as a breeder of fine poultry and at the Nebraska

state poultry show, held at Hastings in 1915, he won twenty-two first prizes, twenty-two second prizes, thirteen third prizes, one fourth prize, one fifth prize, three special prizes and five special medals. He also took four ribbons on poultry in the Pan American exposition at Los Angeles, California, sending four entries and winning the four ribbons. On his Jersey cattle he obtained two first medals, one second medal, two third medals and one fourth medal in the Nebraska State Fair of 1917. He has also received medals from the Clay County Fair during the last two years and his position is one of prominence in connection with poultry breeding and in the raising of fine Jersey cattle in this state.

In 1882 Mr. Holcomb was united in marriage to Miss Ella Swartz, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Samuel Swartz, a minister of the United Brethren church. They have become parents of four children, of whom three are living: Mrs. H. H. Johnson, whose husband is the owner of the Old Trusty incubator plant at Clay Center, Nebraska; D. Z., who was born October 5, 1885, and lives in Clay Center; and M. M., who was born in April, 1899, and is the youngest of the family. Mr. Holcomb and his wife belong to the Congregational church, in the work of which they take active and helpful interest. He is also identified with the Masonic fraternity, the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America and is most loyal to the teachings and purposes of these different fraternal organizations. In politics he is a republican and has held some local offices, but the major part of his time and attention is given to his business affairs and his thoroughness and progressiveness are manifest in everything he undertakes, his business ability and enterprise having brought him to the front as a breeder of fine poultry and of Jersey cattle.

CHARLES L. LEWIS

Charles L. Lewis, president of the Citizens Bank of Fairfield and thus prominently identified with the financial interests of that place, was born at Winchester, Scott county, Illinois, January 26, 1858, a son of Ephraim and Sarah J. (Martin) Lewis, both natives of Virginia. The paternal grandfather, Samuel Lewis was born in Virginia but later removed to Illinois, in which state his death occurred. The maternal grandfather, Samuel Martin, was of Irish descent, his father having come to the United States from that country. The marriage of Ephraim Lewis took place in Illinois, where both he and his wife had gone as children and there for many years he engaged in blacksmithing. In 1868 he removed to Iowa, where he bought a farm and in connection with its operation continued his blacksmith trade, having a shop on the land. Five children were born to that union: W. A., in the garage business at Fairfield; C. L., whose name initiates this review; George S., whose death occurred in Denver, Colorado, in 1898. For years he had been a successful druggist; E. H., a merchant at Fairfield; and Fannie, who is married and resides in Omaha, Nebraska. Throughout their lives Mr. and Mrs. Lewis were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he always gave his allegiance to the republican party.

Charles L. Lewis was reared on a farm and obtained his education in the schools

of Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Until he was twenty-three years of age he engaged in farming with his father but in 1881 came to Nebraska and located in Fairfield. For five years he was in the employ of the Exchange Bank and in 1886, having thoroughly familiarized himself with all phases of the banking business, he organized the Citizens Bank and became cashier. In 1904 he was made president of the bank, an office which he still holds, and concentrating his energies upon its further development, has given his attention to administrative direction and executive control, making the bank one of the strongest financial institutions of the county.

Mr. Lewis has been twice married. In 1884 he was wed to Miss Florence Hoskins, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Leonard Hoskins, one of Illinois' early pioneers. To that marriage five children were born, four of whom are living: Lela V., who is the wife of Merton L. Corey, an attorney of Omaha; Ruby C., a stenographer with a firm in Boston known as the Crafts Candy Company, and during the war she engaged in government work; Leslie, a graduate of the State University and now in the electrical business at Pocatella, Idaho; and Florence, who is the wife of D. H. Reinhardt. Martin R. passed away in 1907 at the age of fifteen months. In August, 1907, occurred the death of Mrs. Lewis and a deep feeling of bereavement swept the community in which she was so well known and in which she had so many friends who appreciated her true personal worth. In 1912 Mr. Lewis was again wed, choosing Anna J. Patton as his wife. She is a native of Iowa.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Lewis the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the republican party, having firm belief in the principles of that party as factors in good government. Mr. Lewis has been very active in local politics and has held the office of mayor in addition to all of the other town offices. He has served on the town and the school board and during the war was chairman of the bond committee of the county. He sold almost three million dollars' worth of bonds. The success which Mr. Lewis enjoys is well merited, for it was achieved only through his own determination and effort. He may rightly be called a self-made man, and his life, always active and useful, has been characterized by strong purpose and successful accomplishment.

GEORGE B. WILLIAMSON

For forty-six years George B. Williamson bore his part in the world's work, continuing for some time in the drug business in Aurora, being thus engaged to the time of his death on October 12, 1909. He was born in Richmond, Pennsylvania, in 1863, and was a son of Joseph and Martha Williamson, who on leaving Pennsylvania became residents of Illinois, and settled in Hamilton county, Nebraska, many years ago, the father securing a homestead. He contributed to the early agricultural development of this section of the state and both he and his wife passed away in Aurora. They had a family of four children.

George B. Williamson, the eldest of the household, was reared under the parental roof and completed his high school education in Illinois. He came with his parents to Nebraska, however, in 1872, and early took up the business of

clerking in a general store in Aurora, being thus employed for three years. Desirous of engaging in business on his own account he embraced every opportunity that would ultimately bring about that result. He clerked in a drug store for some time and afterward purchased the business from his employer, thus conducting the East Side Drug Store until his demise. He owned the building in which his store was located and was very successful in the conduct of his trade for he carried a large and carefully selected line of goods and was thoroughly reliable in all his dealings and progressive in his methods.

Mr. Williamson was twice married. His first marriage was to Lottie Dean, on February 18, 1893. Her death occurred one year and nine months later. On December 24, 1898, he was married to Miss Maude Maddox, who was born in Arkansas, a daughter of Wilford F. and Lenora (Obear) Maddox, the former a native of Tennessee, while the latter was born in Mississippi. They came to Aurora in the early '80s and her father conducted a hotel and restaurant for several years, being thus closely associated with the business interests of the city. His wife was a member of the Catholic church and in politics he was an independent democrat. The mother is deceased and the father is in Colorado. Their family were four in number: Blanche, the wife of William Grace, who is living retired in Grand Island; Mrs. Williamson; Bernard, a resident of Limon, Colorado, where he conducts a hotel; and Earle, who is a proprietor of a restaurant at Cheyenne Wells, Colorado.

To Mr. and Mrs. Williamson have been born three children: Florence, who is teaching school at Bruell, Nebraska; Arthur, who is employed in a drug store in Aurora; and Frances, who is now in the second year in high school. Mrs. Williamson and her children occupy a nice home at No. 712 L street and she is the owner of a good business block in Aurora. She is widely known here, having the friendship and high regard of many and occupying a creditable position in the social circles of the city. Mr. Williamson was a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen lodges.

R. M. KIRCHNER

R. M. Kirchner, proprietor of a Ford garage at Clay Center, having established the business in 1913, was born at Liberty, Nebraska, December 1, 1880, a son of Samuel and Rebecca N. (Smith) Kirchner, who were natives of Germany and of Missouri, respectively. The father became a resident of Gage county, Nebraska, in an early day, settling upon a farm there. He continued to reside in that county for about forty years and both he and his wife passed away in that locality. The father gave his political allegiance to the republican party and was interested in its success, but his time and efforts were concentrated upon his business affairs without desire to participate in the fruits of public office. Mr. and Mrs. Kirchner had a family of seven children, five of whom are living: W. H., who is engaged in the oil business in Oklahoma; G. T., a farmer of Armour, Nebraska; S. F., who also carries on agricultural pursuits at Armour; R. M., of this review; and Mrs. R. R. Cravens living at Omaha, Nebraska.

In the schools of his native city R. M. Kirchner pursued his education and then started out to provide for his own support by giving his attention to farming. He was afterward engaged in barbering at Liberty and in 1906 came to Clay Center, where he opened a barber shop which he conducted for seven years. He then established a moving picture house and carried on that business for two years. Later he opened a Ford garage in Clay Center, beginning the business in 1913. To this he now devotes his entire time and his patronage has steadily increased. He maintains a large repair shop as well as garage and has erected a commodious brick building to house his business, which is now being most profitably conducted.

In 1910 Mr. Kirchner was married to Miss Frances Lynch, who was born in Kansas. She holds membership in the Congregational church and Mr. Kirchner is identified fraternally with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks at Hastings. His political endorsement is given to the republican party nor is he ever remiss in the duties of citizenship, for his cooperation and aid can be counted upon to further all well defined plans and measures for the general good.

JAMES G. BUSH

James G. Bush and his wife were married in the year 1872 in Christian county, Illinois, on the 20th of August, and the 3d of the following month witnessed their departure from that state with a team and covered wagon, which afforded them transportation to the new home on the prairie wilds of Hamilton county, Nebraska, where they arrived on the 30th of September of that year and where they continued to use their wagon as a habitation until the pioneer sod house could be constructed on the homestead of one hundred sixty acres to which Mr. Bush promptly filed claim, in section 24, Hord precinct, in the present township of Bluff. The country hereabouts was at that time almost entirely an unbroken prairie, Indians were still in evidence, antelopes and deer were abundant and one herd of buffaloes passed through the county after Mr. and Mrs. Bush had established themselves on the pioneer farm. York and Seward were the nearest trading points and the young couple had little available funds with which to supply themselves with the commodities offered for sale even at these places. Returns from the cultivation of the prairie land were uncertain and none too ample in those early years, when droughts and grasshoppers worked havoc with all growing crops, and Mr. and Mrs. Bush had much of struggle and hardship as they persistently followed their course and bore their burdens and trials in order to reap later rewards. They remained on the homestead ten years and its appearance radically changed, as it was brought under effective cultivation and given numerous improvements of a substantial order. After selling this original claim Mr. Bush purchased eighty acres of other land in the same township and eventually became the owner of a well improved and valuable farm property, and abundant success rewarded him for his earlier adversities and arduous labors.

Mr. Bush was born in the state of Ohio in the year 1844 and received in his youth a good common school education, which was later amplified by the fortify-



MRS. AND MRS. JAMES G. BUSH

ing experiences of a busy and useful life. He was a resident of Indiana at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war and was one of the gallant young patriots who promptly tendered his services in defense of the Union. He enlisted in the Fifteenth Indiana Battery of Light Artillery, and lived up to the full tension of the great conflict between the north and the south, his active service covering three years and two months and involving participation in numerous major battles, as well as many skirmishes and minor engagements. In later years he vitalized his interest in his old comrades through his affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic.

After the close of the war Mr. Bush was associated with farm enterprise in Illinois until his removal to Nebraska, and it was in that state that, on the 20th of August, 1872, he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Baughman, who was there born and reared. Their gracious companionship continued forty-five years and was severed only when Mr. Bush passed away in September, 1917, one of the venerable and honored pioneer citizens of Hamilton county, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Bush became the parents of the following children: Dwight, who resides with his mother at Hordville, as does also the second son, Arthur; Ida, who died at the age of seven years; Solomon, who resides at Fremont; Earl, who remains at home; John, who is a prosperous farmer of Hamilton county; Ethel, who resides at Waterloo, Douglas county; James, who died at the age of eight years; and two children who died in infancy.

In politics Mr. Bush was a stalwart republican, and his religious views were in harmony with the tenets of the United Brethren church, of which his widow is a zealous member, she being now a resident of Hordville, where she owns and occupies an attractive home, and where she is one of the loved pioneer women of this section of Hamilton county. Many and interesting are the reminiscences which Mrs. Bush gives of the pioneer days in this county. For some time after they located on their pioneer farm their little house was the only dwelling between the North Blue river and Lincoln creek, and several years passed before a school was established in the district. Mrs. Bush states that when she came to Nebraska there were only three houses in the present thriving little city of York, and Lincoln was then little more than a country village.

CHARLES S. BROWN

Charles S. Brown, vice president of the Fidelity State Bank of Aurora, was born in Agency City, Iowa, February 3, 1879, a son of Samuel M. and Marilla N. (Derby) Brown, the former a native of Greencastle, Indiana, while the latter was born in Greene county, Ohio.

Charles S. Brown started out to provide for his own support as an employe in the Lincoln post office, which he entered in 1900, after completing a course in the Wesleyan University at Lincoln, Nebraska. There he remained for seven years or until the 1st of January, 1907, when he became identified with banking by entering the Aurora National Bank as assistant cashier. He was there employed until October 15, 1910, when he became connected with the Fidelity State Bank as its

cashier and has since been officially identified with the institution, becoming its vice president on the 1st of January, 1920. His associate officers are: A. E. Siekmann, president; and B. W. Woodford, cashier. Mr. Brown is also the vice president of the Farmers State Bank of Hampton, Nebraska, and president of the Giltner State Bank of Giltner, Nebraska.

On the 7th of June, 1905, at Clatonia, Nebraska, Mr. Brown was married to Miss Nettie A. Steinmeyer, a daughter of J. H. Steinmeyer, and they have become parents of a son and two daughters: Henry Kenneth, Eleanor Gertrude and Bessie Bell. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Brown is identified with the Rotary Club and with the Masonic fraternity. In these associations are indicated the nature of his interests and the rules which govern his activity in all the relations of life. He has long been classed with the representative business men and loyal citizens of his community and during the World war was county chairman of the Liberty loan committee for Hamilton county.

JAMES E. BRODRICK

Although now a resident of Fairfield, Nebraska, James E. Brodrick is still actively connected with the agricultural circles of Clay county, as manager of his half section of land two miles east of Fairfield. He is a native of New York, where his birth occurred in Yates county on the 22d of June, 1857, a son of Arthur and Ann Eliza (Hall) Brodrick, also natives of New York state where they both lived until death. The paternal grandfather of James E. Brodrick was Bryce Brodrick, and he was a descendant of Dutch ancestors, the family having come originally from Holland. A great-grandfather served under Colonel Spencer in the Revolutionary war and was given a land grant in Ohio as reward for his services. While on the way to take possession of the land his death occurred. The maternal great-grandfather, Robert Hall, was a native of New York state.

In the acquirement of an education James E. Brodrick attended the district schools of New York and his first occupation upon putting his textbooks aside was that of farming. He later learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed for a period of thirty-five years in New York and Nebraska. On the 24th of March, 1876, he located in Fairfield and built the first blacksmith shop of that place, erecting it under a cottonwood tree. His success in that line was rapid and he became known throughout the county as a blacksmith of much ability. Some time later he gave up his trade and purchased a farm, in the management of which he was active for a number of years and then went into the implement business. For six years he traveled on the road for a concern and then located west of Fairfield on two hundred and forty acres of land, on which there were few improvements at the time of purchase. He paid forty dollars per acre for that land and after bringing it to a highly cultivated state sold it for one hundred and forty dollars per acre. He is now residing in Fairfield, but is active in the management of his half section located two mlies east of that place. He has a man on the farm but does considerable work on it himself. In every line of work Mr. Brodrick undertook he

won success and from his blacksmithing alone he derived a fortune of twenty thousand dollars.

On the 10th of October, 1877, occurred the marriage of Mr. Brodrick and Miss Clara Biddle, a native of Birmingham, England, and a daughter of Edward and Sarah Biddle. Her parents came to the United States in 1868, resided in Woodburn, Iowa, for two years, where her father engaged in farming and in 1876 came to Clay county and bought four hundred and eighty acres of land. Later he removed to Kansas, where he secured a homestead and some years before his death lived retired, financially independent. Six children were born to that union, four of whom are living: Mrs. Brodrick; George Biddle, a fruit farmer of Olympia, Washington; Arthur Biddle, foreman of the Cudahy Packing Company at Los Angeles; and Mary, the widow of Fred Evans who makes her home in Hastings. Both Mr. and Mrs. Biddle were consistent members of the Congregational church and he gave his political allegiance to the republican party. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Brodrick, three of whom are living: Blanche, principal of the Howard school at Grand Island, who received her education in Fairfield and Peru Normal; Lucile, the wife of J. H. Bissell, an undertaker of New York; and Frances, who married R. G. Briggs and is now a widow, holding the position of librarian at Fairfield. Mrs. Briggs has one child, Elbert Allen.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Brodrick the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party, having firm belief in the principles of that party as factors in good government. The political faith of both himself and wife is that of the democratic party and fraternally he is identified with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of which he is past master. Mr. Brodrick has been mayor of Fairfield and in 1912 was a member of the state legislature and was partly responsible for the passing of the Guarantee Bank Law. He was a member of the finance committee and chairman of the asylum committee. For some years he was chairman of the township board and was for six years justice of the peace. After residing on the farm ten years Mr. Brodrick removed to Fairfield, where he is now residing, a respected and representative citizen. His life has been an active and useful one and his success is due to his own determined effort, intelligently directed.

LOUIS E. WILLIAMSON

Louis E. Williamson, owning and controlling large land interests in Nebraska, was born in Piatt county, Illinois, September 5, 1883, and now makes his home in Clay Center, Nebraska. He is a grandson of Louis Clarke Davis, who removed with his family to Nebraska during the boyhood of Louis E. Williamson and the latter completed his public school education as a student in the Clay Center high school. He afterward pursued a commercial course in Atchison, Kansas, and later learned the printer's trade, which he followed for a period of eight years. He also filled the position of deputy county clerk for more than two years and then went to Marion, Nebraska, where he engaged in merchandising for three years. At the end of that time he returned to Clay Center, following the death of his grandfather, and assisted his grandmother in the management of the estate, which was left by Louis

Clarke Davis, his grandfather, who was one of the early settlers and prominent citizens of this section, where he acquired large property holdings.

On the 28th of June, 1910, Mr. Williamson was married to Miss Agnes L. McFadden, who was born in Atwood, Kansas, a daughter of John M. and Laura H. (Elder) McFadden, the former a native of Kittanning, Pennsylvania, and now a merchant of Clay Center. To Mr. and Mrs. Williamson have been born two children: Lois, five years of age; and Helen, who is in her second year. Mr. and Mrs. Williamson occupy a very prominent social position, the hospitality of the best homes of Clay Center and the county being freely accorded them. Mr. Williamson is a recognized leader in the Knights of Pythias, is a past chancellor and now grand representative to the Grand lodge. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party, but he does not seek nor desire office as a reward for party fealty, preferring to concentrate his efforts and attention upon the business affairs under his control. He is recognized as a man of sterling business qualities, of marked enterprise and sound judgment, and his careful management of the estate left by his grandfather has greatly enhanced its value.

O. H. DARLING

O. H. Darling, now living retired in Aurora, was born in Massena, New York, February 15, 1850, his parents being Abiel and Rebecca (Waterbury) Darling, both of whom were natives of Vermont. They were married, however, in the Empire state and there the father followed the occupation of farming until 1851, when he removed with his family to Wisconsin, which was then a frontier state. He purchased land from the government and engaged in farming there for more than three decades, or until 1882, when he came to Hamilton county and here again invested in farm land. For a considerable period he devoted his attention to the work of further developing and improving his property and prior to his demise went to Aurora, where both he and his wife passed away. They had a family of eight children, four sons and four daughters, three of whom are living: Orlando H. of this review; Sarah Ella, the wife of D. S. Smith, cashier of the bank at Belleville, Wisconsin; and Henry N., who is engaged in the grocery business at Fullerton, Nebraska. The parents were members of the Second Day Adventist church and Mr. Darling voted for the republican party. The ancestral line can be traced farther back, for the grandfather of O. H. Darling was John Darling, a native of Vermont and of English descent. He spent his entire life in the Green Mountain state. The maternal grandfather, James Waterbury, was also born in Vermont.

O. H. Darling was but a year old when the family home was established in Wisconsin and there he was reared to manhood on the home farm. On attaining his majority he entered a bank and thus initiated his business career. He was there employed for three years, after which he came to Aurora and engaged in the shoe business in this city, remaining active in mercantile circles in that connection for two decades. It was on first coming to Nebraska in 1870 that he homesteaded

in York county and there built a small frame side-boarded house. Afterward he purchased an additional tract of eighty acres of railroad land and then improved his quarter section. He had a team and wagon when he arrived here, having driven through from Wisconsin, thirty-one days being required for completing the trip. He passed through all the hardships and privations of frontier life, including the dry years in which the drought destroyed all crops. He was living in York county on his homestead during the memorable Easter storm-and also through the period when the grasshoppers took every living green thing. Notwithstanding all these things which came to discourage the settlers he persevered and is still the owner of his land that has never had a mortgage upon it. It is situated near Lushton in York county and through his labors has been transformed into a rich and valuable farm which annually returns to him a substantial income. It was in 1889 that he left the farm and took up his abode in Aurora, where he has since made his home and recently he built a nice bungalow in which he is now living retired. Through the years of his connection with commercial interests he won an unassailable reputation for the integrity, as well as the enterprise of his business methods. He ever endeavored to please his customers and his progressiveness and thorough reliability brought substantial returns.

In 1869 Mr. Darling was married to Miss Irene P. Smith, a native of Vermont and a daughter of David W. and Anna (Cox) Smith, who were also residents of the Green Mountain state. Removing westward they lived for a short time in Nebraska and then went to Iowa, where their remaining days were passed. In 1881 Mr. Darling was called upon to mourn the loss of his first wife. The following year he married Mary E. Rudd, born in the state of New York, a daughter of Charles Rudd, also a native of the Empire state. He came to Aurora in 1889 and continued a resident of this city until called to his final rest.

In his political views Mr. Darling is a republican, having supported the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He and his wife belong to the Congregational church and are highly esteemed in the community in which they make their home. He has long figured prominently not only in business affairs, but in connection with all those interests which feature in the upbuilding of the community and in the support of those measures which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride.

AUGUST BARTZ, JR.

Improved with two distinct sets of farm buildings is the excellent estate of August Bartz, Jr., in Hamilton county, and he has gained for himself a gratifying success and prestige as a progressive exponent of the agricultural and live stock industry in the county which has been his place of residence since he was sixteen years of age and he is a member of a well known and highly honored family.

Mr. Bartz was born in Henry county, Illinois, May 10, 1870, and is a son of August and Ernestine (Schultz) Bartz, both natives of Germany. August Bartz, Sr., was reared and educated in his native land and was a young man when in 1861 he came to the United States and established his residence in Illinois. His

loyalty to the land of his adoption was significantly shown when he enlisted in 1864 for service as a soldier in the Civil war. He became a member of Company H, One Hundred and Forty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and continued in service until the close of the war. After the war he farmed on rented land for one year and then purchased a farm in Henry county, Illinois, where he continued his vigorous and successful career as an agriculturist until 1886, when he came with his family to Nebraska and purchased two hundred and forty acres of partially improved land in Deepwell precinct, Hamilton county. He developed this property most effectively and became a prominent and influential representative of farm enterprise in this section of the state. In 1897 he removed from his farm to the village of Phillips, this county, and one year later transferred his residence to Grand Island, Hall county, where his wife died in the year 1909. Within a short time thereafter he removed to Long Beach, California, where he has since lived retired. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church, of which his wife likewise was a zealous communicant and he maintains affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic. Of the nine children, August, Jr., of this sketch is the eldest; Frank is a resident of Kewanee, Illinois; Albert lives at Mitchell, Scotts Bluff county, Nebraska; Edward W. is a farmer near Giltner, Hamilton county; Minnie is the wife of Herman Kuehner, a farmer of Deepwell precinct, this county; Martha is the widow of Victor Waltman; Walter now maintains his residence in the state of Utah; Emma is the wife of Henry H. Keller of Madrid, Perkins county, Nebraska; and Bertha is the wife of Clyde Chisholm of Giltner, Hamilton county.

August Bartz, Jr., gained his early education in the public schools of Illinois and was sixteen years of age at the time of the family removal to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he was reared to manhood and where he gained experience in connection with the manifold activities of his father's large farm. On the 1st of October, 1891, he wedded Miss Bertha Kuehner, and the young couple established their residence on one of the farms belonging to August Bartz, Sr., in Deepwell precinct. There the subject of this review continued his productive activities as an agriculturist and stock raiser for seven years. He then purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the same precinct and three years later he purchased, in 1901, the fine homestead farm on which he now resides, in section 28, Phillips precinct. Here his original purchase comprised two hundred and forty acres, but he has since added to his holdings until he is now the owner of a valuable property of four hundred and eighty acres of the excellent land of Phillips precinct, the property being improved with two sets of buildings. All of these buildings have been erected by the present owner and other permanent improvements installed by him denote him as a progressive and successful farmer and a man of discrimination and mature judgment. In connection with diversified agriculture he gives special attention to the raising of the best of live stock, including shorthorn cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs. His wife merits a goodly share of the credit for developing and caring for a fine flock of Rhode Island red chickens.

Mr. Bartz is a thoroughgoing business man and is liberal and loyal as a citizen. He is a director of the Bank of Phillips, is president of the Farmers Lumber Company of Phillips and is secretary of the Phillips Grain Company. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, he is affiliated with the Masonic frater-

nity and he and his wife are earnest communicants of the Lutheran church, as are also their children, of whom the eldest is Carl, who lives in Phillips; Arthur is a progressive young farmer of Phillips precinct; Rosalie is the wife of George Cornelius of Deepwell precinct; Minnie is the wife of Herbert Rathje; and Ernest, Maria and Edgar, remain at home.

JOHN F. REDIGER

John F. Rediger is now making his home in Aurora, where he is living retired from business, but in former years was closely associated with agricultural interests in Hamilton county and by reason of his perseverance and capable management won the success that now enables him to rest from further labor. He was born September 27, 1879, near Gridley, in Livingston county, Illinois, his grandfather being Christian Rediger, who was born in Ottweiler, Germany, on the 5th of June, 1805. His entire life was spent in that land. His son, Christian Rediger, was also born in Germany and about 1856 came to the new world, taking up his abode in Illinois, where he worked for an uncle for a number of years. He later rented a place, his sister keeping house for him until he was married. It was on the 25th of March, 1875, that he wedded Catherine Risser, who was born in Illinois. They began their domestic life in that state and there remained until 1885, when they came to Nebraska. The father's birth occurred in Gutenbrunner Hof, Germany, August 26, 1847, while the mother was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, February 5, 1857. Mrs. Rediger departed this life in November, 1919, and the father is now spending the winter in California. In the intervening years he was closely associated with farming interests in Hamilton county. When he arrived here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land and from time to time added to his holdings until he owned three hundred and twenty acres. He also sold eighty acres to his son John, this being an improved tract. In his business affairs he met with substantial success as the result of his determination and business capability. His political endorsement has always been given to the democratic party and his religious faith is that of the Mennonite church. To him and his wife were born ten children, four sons and six daughters: Edward Albert, who was born in Livingston county, Illinois, April 14, 1876, is living retired from business in his native state; Emil W., born in Livingston county, Illinois, October 27, 1877, is retired from business and resides in Washington, Illinois; John F. is the third of the family; Anna Marie, born in Livingston county, September 8, 1881, is the wife of J. C. Stauffer, a resident of Seward county, Nebraska; Elizabeth Emma, born in Livingston county, September 29, 1883, is the wife of David Bender, also of Seward county; Mattie A., born in Hamilton county, Nebraska, March 22, 1886, is the wife of Ben Kremer, a well known farmer of Hamilton county; Joseph Arthur, born in Hamilton county, September 24, 1889, is now living on a farm in Keith county, Nebraska; Ella Susanna, born in Hamilton county, January 2, 1890, is the wife of Joseph Rocke, a resident farmer of Illinois; Freda J., born in Hamilton county, March 6, 1893, is the wife of John Rosehart, who follows farm-

ing in Illinois; Ada K., born in Hamilton county, March 2, 1897, is the wife of Ray Schertz, also of Illinois.

John F. Rediger pursued his education in the country schools of Hamilton county, taking up his studies at the usual age and remaining a student through the winter months, while in the summer seasons he worked on the farm. After his textbooks were put aside altogether he concentrated his attention upon farming and devoted his time to general agriculture until January, 1920, when he disposed of his live stock and farm implements and removed to Aurora. He is still the owner, however, of eighty acres of well improved land and the rental thereof supplies him with a goodly income. He is to day a well-to-do citizen and has made most of his possessions through his own efforts. He purchased a nice property at No. 1119 Sixth street in Aurora, where he is now pleasantly and comfortably situated.

On the 24th of December, 1908, Mr. Rediger was married to Miss Emma Rocke, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Peter and Anna (Zehr) Rocke, the former a native of Alsace-Lorraine, France, while the latter was born in Illinois, in which state their marriage was celebrated and they always continued residents of Illinois. They had four children: Katie, the wife of Emanuel Oyer, of Illinois; Jacob E., also a resident of that state; Joseph, who follows farming in Illinois; and Mrs. Rediger, who by her marriage has become the mother of a daughter, Gladys, born April 26, 1910.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Rediger are members of the Mennonite church and he gives his political allegiance usually to the democratic party but is still independent, voting according to the dictates of his judgment rather than according to party ties. He has never aspired to office, preferring that his public service shall be done as a private citizen. His business affairs have claimed the major part of his time and attention and thoroughness and energy in all that he has undertaken have constituted the salient factors in the attainment of the place which he now occupies as one of the men of affluence in Aurora.

JOHN M. HEFTY, SR.

John M. Hefty, Sr., and others of the remaining citizens who were pioneers of Hamilton county, and who endured all the trials and hardships of the early days, find that the years have rewarded them for all they endured and for which they labored so earnestly at a time when this section of the state was little more than an unbroken prairie. Mr. Hefty is now living retired in the village of Stockham, Hamilton county, is one of the strong and resoureeful pioneers who here carried forward the initial stages of development and progress and is always to be counted as one of the founders and builders of modern prosperity in this county. He was born in Switzerland, February 24, 1842, a son of Peter and Barbara (Shindler) Hefty, the former passing away when the subject of this review was a child of five years. Mr. Hefty was reared and educated in his native canton, and in realizing his achievement in later years it may well be believed that he absorbed much of the vital spirit of the fair little republic in which he was born. In 1865, at the age of twenty-three years, Mr. Hefty came



MR. AND MRS. JOHN M. HEFTY

to the United States and established his residence in Pennsylvania, where, as a competent workman at the carpenter's trade, he assisted in the erection of government hospital buildings at Chestnut Hill. Later he made his way to Wisconsin and there he continued in the work of his trade the greater part of the time until 1872, when he cast in his lot with the pioneers of Hamilton county, Nebraska. He came by railroad to Lincoln, thence proceeded to Crete, Saline county, and from this latter point made his way on foot to Hamilton county, where, on the 13th of May of that year, he entered claim to a homestead. He found employment at railroad work, at Sterling, Johnson county, and thus supplemented his limited financial resources. He employed others to do a portion of the breaking of his land, but personally had his share of practical experience in this preliminary work. His first house was a dugout, but this gave way to a log house, which he purchased and removed to his homestead, in Farmers Valley township. He planted an orchard and other trees, but hailstorms worked havoc with them and set his efforts at naught. His little stable or barn of poles and straw was replaced by a frame barn, and gradually still better buildings marked the increasing prosperity attending the owner of the property. Mr. Hefty still owns his original homestead, now one of the fine farms of the county, and his aggregate holdings of farm land in the county comprise three quarter-sections with two sets of excellent farm buildings. Like other pioneers Mr. Hefty hauled provisions overland from Sutton, took his pioneer grists to a mill at Beaver Crossing—involving a two days' absence from home—and viewed with as much calmness as possible the destruction of his crops by the grasshoppers. He was fortunate in having all of his live stock protected at the time of the memorable Easter blizzard, which worked havoc in this section of the state. Mr. Hefty's vigorous and well directed activities as an agriculturalist and stock raiser brought to him generous returns, and since 1907 he has lived retired at Stockham, though he still maintains a general supervision of his farm properties.

In 1874 Mr. Hefty married Miss Catherine Bumgarter, who likewise is a native of Switzerland, and of their union were born five children: Martin is a progressive farmer of Hamilton county; Barbara is the wife of Tobias Spink of Stockham; Peter died at the age of thirty-six years; John M., Jr., has active management of his father's old homestead farm; Catherine is the wife of Heinrich Nicholas, a farmer in Hamilton county.

Mr. Hefty has always done his part in the supporting of measures and enterprises tending to advance the general welfare of his home community and county, is independent in politics and he and his wife hold membership in the German Reformed church.

J. M. McFADDEN

J. M. McFadden, who is today the oldest merchant in years of continuous connection with the trade interests of Clay Center, where he conducts a general store, was born in Venango, Pennsylvania, January 29, 1843, and is a son of Henry S. and Mary Ann (Mechling) McFadden, both of whom were also natives of the Keystone

state. The ancestry in the McFadden line can be traced back to Scotland, but the family has long been represented on this side of the Atlantic, his grandfather, Michael McFadden, having been a native of Pennsylvania. The maternal grandfather, John Mechling, was also born in the Keystone state and the Mechling family was represented in the Revolutionary war. In the maternal line of Mr. McFadden he is also descended from the Haines family of German lineage, three brothers of the name having come to the new world at an early period in the colonization of America. The Broadhead family represented another ancestral line and was also of German origin and was planted on American soil in colonial days. General Broadhead served with that title under Washington and was known as "Washington big captain." He participated in a number of engagements and was cited for bravery. The parents of J. M. McFadden removed from Pennsylvania to Illinois in the year 1858 and there the father purchased land, spending his remaining days in that state. He had a family of ten children, eight of whom are living: J. M., of this review; Mrs. Fannie Boyer, of Illinois; Mrs. Sarah Blanchard, living in Texas; Emma, of Illinois; Mrs. Louisa Bean, a resident of Chicago; Etta Francis, who is a widow and lives in Knoxville, Illinois; Harry, occupying the old home farm in Illinois; and Frank, a merchant at Marion, Nebraska. The father departed this life at the age of eighty-six and is still survived by the mother who is making her home in Piatt county, Illinois, at the age of more than ninety-seven years. Mr. McFadden was a republican in his pplitical views and his religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church in which Mrs. McFadden still holds membership.

J. M. McFadden of this review pursued his education in the common schools of Pennsylvania and of Illinois and started out in life as a farmer, continuing to devote his attention to agricultural pursuits in that state until 1879, when he removed to western Kansas. There he turned his attention to mercantile pursuits and conducted business in that state for fifteen years, on the expiration of which period he came to Clay Center, arriving here in 1895. He here opened a general merchandise store and is today the oldest merchant of Clay Center. He closely applies himself to the interests of his trade and his thoroughly reliable dealing and progressive methods have brought to him a liberal patronage, so that success has attended his labors.

In 1882, in northwestern Kansas, Mr. McFadden was married to Miss Laura H. Elder, a native of Kentucky and a daughter of John M. Elder, who removed from Kentucky to Illinois and in 1872 came to Clay county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded, casting in his lot with the pioneer settlers who laid broad and deep the foundation upon which has been built the present progress and prosperity of the county. To Mr. and Mrs. McFadden have been born six children: Mary, the wife of C. C. Campbell, who is engaged in the railway mail service and resides in Lincoln; Mrs. Agnes Williamson, mentioned elsewhere in this work; Karl, a farmer of Clay county; Ruth, the wife of W. R. Frye, a clothing man of Clay Center; H. W., a practicing physician of Greenwood, Nebraska; and Gladys, the wife of Evan Brown, who is a hardware merchant of Greenwood.

Mr. McFadden and his wife attend the Congregational church. In matters of citizenship he has always manifested a most progressive spirit and displays the same quality of patriotism that prompted his enlistment for service in the Civil war in

1861, in which year he joined the Second Illinois Cavalry, serving for three years and three months. He was on duty at Fort Henry, Fort Donelson and in all the battles to the gulf and was with General Banks in the Red River campaign. He has always given his political support to the republican party, which was the defense of the Union during the dark days of the Civil war and has always been the party of reform and progress. Mr. McFadden, however, has never been an office seeker but gives his entire time to his mercantile interests and to the supervision of his property, for he is the owner of a good farm in Clay county. He has always enjoyed a substantial trade as the result of thoroughly reliable business methods and all who know him speak of him in terms of warm regard.

MONMOUTH BRODRICK

Monmouth Brodrick owns three sections of land in Clay county and has been for many years one of the leading agriculturists of the county. He was born in Lodi, Seneca county, New York, August 31, 1846, a son of Arthur and Eliza (Hall) Brodrick, further mention of whom is made in the sketch of J. E. Brodrick to be found on another page of this work.

In the acquirement of an education Monmouth Brodrick attended the district schools of New York until he was sixteen years of age, at which time he put his textbooks aside and engaged in farming. In the spring of 1870 he removed to Lee county, Illinois, and for two months worked on a farm there and then left for Cedar county, Iowa, where he engaged in like work until March of 1872. At that time he came to Nebraska as a member of a prairie schooner train and settled in Clay county, where he homesteaded eighty acres near Fairfield and took a preemption of one hundred and sixty acres. He built a little frame shanty on this land and devoted all of his energy and attention to the cultivation of his farm.

On the 1st of April, 1873, Mr. Brodrick was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Palmer, further mention of her family being made in the sketch of her brother, John, to be found on another page of this work. Three children have been born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Brodrick: John, who is married, lives on his father's farm and has three children: Catherine, Earl and Alice; Edith, who is the wife of William Lamby, a farmer near St. Joseph, Missouri, and the mother of two children: Monmouth and Wallace; and Carl, who is residing on his father's old preemption and has two children: Bryce and Ronald.

Mr. Brodrick has always given his allegiance to the republican party, in the interests of which he has taken an active part. He was a member of the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh Nebraska legislatures, being chairman of the agricultural committee the first term and of the committee on public schools the second term. His religious faith is that of the Congregational church and fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen. Mr. Brodrick started life in Nebraska with but a few hundred dollars but so managed his affairs as to become financially comfortable. He now has three sections of land highly cultivated and well improved. He has handled considerable stock and in this connection has also become well known throughout the county. Mr. Brodrick has been a successful man and his success is

the result of his own determined effort. Always able, persistent and strong of purpose, his salient characteristics are such as have gained for him the confidence and respect of all who know him.

A. G. SIMS

A goodly proportion of the population of Aurora is made up of men who were formerly active along agricultural lines and whose well won success now enables them to enjoy life without further recourse to labor. To this class belongs A. G. Sims, who is truly a self-made man inasmuch as energy and diligence have constituted the broad foundation upon which he has built his prosperity. His life record began in Ogle county, Illinois, March 21, 1853, his parents being Daniel and Christina (Bunton) Sims, the former a native of Pennsylvania, while the latter was born in Scotland. Their marriage was celebrated in Illinois, where they took up their abode in an early day and by way of the Great Lakes they journeyed to Chicago and thence drove overland to Ogle county. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Sims lived in Illinois until called to their final rest. The father obtained one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government, paying the usual price of a dollar and a quarter per acre. The tract was in the midst of the forest and he cleared away the trees, built a house and converted the hitherto wild land into rich and productive fields from which he gathered many a golden harvest. His business affairs were wisely and carefully conducted and thus he obtained gratifying success. His political endorsement was always given to the republican party from the time of its organization and his religious belief was that of the Presbyterian church, his Christian faith shaping his life in all of its relations. To him and his wife were born eleven children, five of whom are living: Mary, a resident of Rockford, Illinois; Henry, a retired farmer of Aurora; David, who owns and cultivates a farm in Hamilton county; A. G., of this review; and Daniel, who lives on a farm in Iowa.

A. G. Sims was educated in the country schools of Illinois and his early experiences were those of the boy who is reared on a farm and divides his time between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. He was a young man of twenty years when he arrived in Hamilton county in 1874 and here purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land. He bought an ox team and at once began to break the sod and till the fields. He continued the work of plowing, planting and harvesting and in course of time gathered rich crops. He bought his land mostly on credit, making partial payment thereon and when his first tract had been cleared from indebtedness he bought eighty acres more. He still owns his farm, on which he originally lived in a little sod house, while later he built a frame dwelling and added other modern equipments and improvements. He continued to occupy and develop the farm until 1910, when he came to Aurora and in 1913 purchased the property which is now his home.

It was on the 18th of October, 1882, that Mr. Sims was married to Miss Sarah Elizabeth Dixon, who was born in La Salle county, Illinois, a daughter of William

and Ellen Dixon, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Maryland. Their marriage was celebrated in his native state and in 1875 they arrived in Nebraska, taking up their abode in Hamilton county, where the mother passed away, while the death of the father occurred in Grand Island. He had become the owner of land in Hamilton county and was closely associated with farming interests here for a number of years. To him and his wife were born six children, five of whom are living: Mary Ann, the wife of A. W. Mason, of Gering, Nebraska; Mrs. Sims; Charles William, a resident of Grand Island, where he carries on agricultural pursuits; George E., engaged in the grocery business at Scottsbluff, Nebraska; and Arthur L., a farmer of Putnam county, Illinois.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sims were born six children, of whom five are living: Harry E., who is engaged in the automobile business in Aurora; Hollis A., a farmer of Minatare, Nebraska; Frank C., living on a farm in Hamilton county; Violet E., at home; and Leota Mary, the wife of Irvin H. Otto who is engaged in the insurance business in Aurora. Mrs. Sims is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Sims belongs to the Royal Highlanders and votes with the republican party, of which he has been a stalwart advocate since attaining his majority but never an office seeker. He is interested, however, in affairs pertaining to the general progress and improvement of the community and his cooperation can be counted upon to further plans for the public good. His life has contained no spectacular phases, but an analyzation of his record shows that persistency of purpose and unfaltering diligence have enabled him to overcome all obstacles and difficulties in his path and advance steadily toward his desired goal—the attainment of success sufficient to supply himself and his family with the comforts of life.

FRANK A. WESTERING

A public-spirited citizen of Edgar is Frank A. Westering, who for many years has been a leading figure in the agricultural and political circles of Clay county. A native of Illinois, he was born near Galesburg on the 11th of August, 1868, a son of C. A. and Emma Christina (Carlton) Westering, both natives of Sweden. Their marriage occurred in Illinois, where the father engaged in farming and for nine years they also resided in Webster county, Iowa, having removed there in 1868. Two years were passed as residents of Page county, Iowa, and subsequently, in 1879, they removed to Clay county, where the father purchased two hundred acres of land. At the time of purchase the land was nothing but prairie but some years later found it a highly cultivated and valuable property. This land is still in the family. Twelve children were born to that union, seven of whom are living. Frank A., whose name initiates this review, was the second in order of birth. Throughout his life Mr. Westering was a stanch democrat and both he and his wife were consistent members of the Lutheran church.

Frank A. Westering received his education in the country schools of Nebraska and for some time attended the schools in Fairfield. After putting his textbooks aside he engaged in farming, for two years conducted an implement business in Edgar and traveled for a wagon house for a like number of years. For nine years

Mr. Westering was active in the office of county supervisor and he is now chairman of the county board, which he has served in that capacity for the past five years. He was active in that connection at the time the courthouse was built. Mr. Westering has always stood for progressive public measures and is interested in everything pertaining to the welfare and upbuilding of the community in which he lives. For three years he served his fellow citizens as mayor and his splendid qualities and genial manner made for wide popularity.

In March, 1891, occurred the marriage of Mr. Westering and Anna Peterson. She was a native of Sweden who was brought by her parents to this country when but nine months old. Her parents were Adolph and Johanna Peterson, who settled in Fillmore county in 1888, where they both resided until death. The mother lived to the advanced age of ninety-two years. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Westering one child, Thera Lucile, has been born. She is in the ninth grade of the Edgar public schools.

Mr. Westering gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and his religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church. He is an exemplary member of the Masonic order, being a Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the Mystic Shrine. Mr. Westering is now looking after his estate and has rented his farm, from which he receives a substantial income. He has done effective public work, his aid and influence always being given on the side of progress and improvement, his labor resulting most beneficially for the welfare of the community. His business career has been actuated by a progressive spirit that has prompted him to utilize wisely every opportunity that has come to him.

FREDERICK WILLIAM SCHUSTER

As a young man of ambition and self-reliance, Frederick William Schuster came to Nebraska, and here, through his well ordered endeavors in connection with farm industry, he achieved substantial prosperity, even as he had secured a place in popular confidence and goodwill. In addition to being the owner of one of the fine farm properties of Hamilton county and president of the Bank of Phillips and also in the Farmers Elevator Company, he was vice-president of the Farmers Lumber Company of Phillips.

Mr. Schuster was born in Germany in the year 1867, and is a son of Henry Schuster, who came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, in 1886, and here purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, upon which had been constructed a sod house and a small barn. Here he continued his activities as a pioneer farmer until his death and here also his wife died, both having been earnest communicants of the Lutheran church. Frederick W. Schuster gained his early education in his native land and was seventeen years of age when he came to the United States and found employment at farm work near Grand Island, Nebraska. He continued to be employed by the month as a farm workman for some time and after the death of his parents assumed control of his father's home farm in Hamilton county, in the ownership of which he continued and which he developed and improved until it is one of the valuable farm proper-



F. WILLIAM SCHUSTER



ties in the central western part of the county. The place is situated on section 22, Deepwell township, about five miles distant from Phillips, which is the post-office address and the excellent buildings and general attractiveness of the place mark the owner as a progressive and successful agriculturist and stock raiser. The land comprises four hundred and eighty acres on which there are two sets of buildings. Mr. Schuster encountered his share of reverses in his farm enterprise, including loss of crops in the years 1893 and 1894, when protracted droughts worked havoc in this section of the state.

In February, 1889, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Schuster to Miss Fredricka Tiemeyer, and they became the parents of three children; Herman, Paul and Emma, all of whom remain at the parental home. The attractive rural home of the Schuster family is situated in section 22 of Deepwell township, and is known for its cordial hospitality.

Mr. Schuster was an independent voter but liberal and public-spirited as a citizen. He was a man whose character and reputation had marked influence in connection with the development of the solid and representative business of this institution. He was affiliated with the Royal Highlanders and was a communicant of the Lutheran church as is his widow. Mr. Schuster passed away on September 21, 1920, mourned not only by his family and immediate friends, but by the community at large.

P. J. SCHWAB

Philip J. Schwab, a retired farmer now living in Clay Center, was born in Bureau county, Illinois, in 1867, a son of George P. and Catherine (Keiber) Schwab, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father came to America about 1843 or 1844 and they were married in Illinois, the mother having crossed the Atlantic about 1854. Mr. Schwab purchased land, making his payments largely on time, and thus he gained a start in the new world. In 1880 he removed to Clay county, having previously purchased land in this section of the state. He had become owner of an entire section, for which he paid twelve dollars per acre, and taking up his abode in Nebraska became identified with its agricultural interests, thus contributing in substantial measure to the development of his part of the state. He was a well educated and well read man for his day and for twenty-four years served as school director, the cause of education ever finding in him a warm friend. He was a very liberal man, ever ready to assist his friends and neighbors, and he aided many in obtaining their farms. He belonged to the Lutheran church in early manhood and later to the Evangelical church and he gave his political support to the republican party, at times holding some local offices. In his family were thirteen children, eleven of whom are living, but only two, George W. and P. J., are residing in Clay county.

P. J. Schwab obtained his education in the public schools of this county and began life as a farmer, devoting his attention to the work of tilling the soil until 1919. Year by year he carefully cultivated his fields and harvested his crops and

his industry and perseverance constituted the basic elements of his growing success.

In 1891 Mr. Schwab was united in marriage to Miss Rosine Mack, a native of Germany and a daughter of Jacob Mack, who was also born in that country and became a resident of Clay county in 1879. He purchased land and owned a farm to the time of his death. Mr. and Mrs. Schwab became the parents of four children: Mabel, the wife of N. W. Kendall, a bookkeeper of Chicago; Florence, the wife of R. E. McKenney, who has a garage at Edgar, Nebraska, while his wife prior to her marriage was a stenographer for a number of years, working in the courthouse and at the incubator plant; J. Arthur, who is a junior in the Northwestern college at Naperville, Illinois; and Mildred, who is a senior in the high school of Clay Center. The parents are members of the Evangelical church and Mr. Schwab belongs also to the Knights of Pythias. In politics he is a republican and was elected on that ticket to the office of county supervisor in 1914. He is now serving for his seventh year in that position, the duties of which he has discharged with marked promptness and fidelity. He has also been a school director and the cause of education and of public progress along many lines has always found in him a stalwart champion. While he has retired from business, he is still the owner of a half section of valuable land, which he rents out, all under cultivation and well improved. He sold one farm and bought another half section and in all business transactions met with success. His father was a prominent stockman, raising pure bred shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and Percheron horses, and P. J. Schwab followed in his footsteps. He and his two brothers had one of the biggest herds of red polled cattle in Nebraska at one time. He now makes his home in the city, giving much of his attention to the settlement of the estate of his father, who passed away November 23, 1918.

SAMUEL STAHLNECKER

Samuel Stahlnecker, whose life was devoted to the occupation of farming and who thus contributed to the agricultural development of Hamilton county, was born in Pennsylvania in 1840 and passed away in 1882. His father, Samuel Stahlnecker, Sr., was of German descent and spent his last days in Pennsylvania.

In the schools of the Keystone state Samuel Stahlnecker of this review pursued his education and there was reared, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. Having arrived at years of maturity he was married in 1868 to Miss Lizzie Huffman, a native of Pennsylvania, born February 13, 1848, and a daughter of Daniel C. and Mary (Frymire) Huffman, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, in which state the mother died. The father afterward came to Hamilton county in 1875 and purchased a section of railroad land. To him and his wife were born eight children, of whom five are living: Sarah L., the wife of Levi Hafer, a resident of Seward, Nebraska; Mrs. Lizzie Worthington; Martin, who is a farmer of Hamilton county; Mrs. Hattie Frymire, living in Pennsylvania; and Mrs. Catherine McBride, of Colby, Kansas. The parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, loyal to its teachings and active in its support and in his political views Mr. Huffman was a democrat.

To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Stahlnecker were born seven children: Tillie, the wife of C. B. Huffman, now living in Aurora; William, who resides at Grand Island, Nebraska; Mrs. Becky Fox, living in Frontier county, Nebraska; Frank, who is a resident farmer of Hamilton county; Dan, who also carries on farming in Hamilton county; Leslie, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits at Grand Island; and Samuel, who likewise follows that occupation in Hamilton county.

Mr. Stahlnecker was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and throughout his life followed its teachings and endeavored to do unto others as he would have them do unto him. His political endorsement was given to the democratic party.

After six years of widowhood Mrs. Stahlnecker became the wife of Thomas Worthington, a native of Ohio, who came to Hamilton county in the early '70s and here secured a homestead claim, on which he resided to the time of his death. He became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he converted into rich and productive fields, annually gathering therefrom golden harvests. Mrs. Worthington now owns eighty acres, her father's old homestead in Hamilton precinct, section 19, in Hamilton county. In 1915 she removed to Giltner and in 1918 became a resident of Aurora, where she purchased a modern home at No. 1305 Eighth street. She has been a resident of Hamilton county since 1875, at which time she removed to Nebraska with her first husband, who assisted his father-in-law in the cultivation and improvement of the Huffman farm. Mrs. Worthington is widely known in the county, where she has now lived for forty-six years. She has been an interested witness of all that has occurred in the way of developing and improving this section of the state and her many sterling traits of character have gained her warm friendships and kindly regard.

WILLIAM W. CLACK

Since 1887 William W. Clack has been a resident of Clay county and as a successful and progressive agriculturist he is well known throughout the community. He was born in Macoupin county, Illinois, on the 22d of October, 1848, a son of J. B. and Mary (Walters) Clack. His parents were pioneer settlers of Illinois, where the father engaged in farming and stock raising and where they both passed away. Four children were born of that union, three of whom are living: Lydia J. Greene of Virden, Illinois; Sarah Haggard of Oklahoma; and William W., whose name initiates this review. They were consistent members of the Baptist church and Mr. Clack was a stanch democrat. The grandfather of our subject was William Clack, a pioneer of Illinois, where he preempted land.

William W. Clack received his education in the schools of Virden, Illinois, and after putting his textbooks aside engaged in farming and stock raising, having purchased a good tract of land. In 1887 he came to Edgar, Nebraska, and bought land and is now in possession of a section near Edgar and a half section in Montana. His success along agricultural lines is undisputed and he is conceded to be one of the leading farmers in Clay county and Nebraska.

In 1868 William W. Clack was united in marriage to Miss Fannie Walkington, a

native of England, and they became the parents of three children: Mrs. Warren; Ida, the wife of W. E. Montgomery of Lewiston, Montana; and Edward W. Edward W. was born in Illinois and was married on the 22d of March, 1878, to Mary Emery, a native of Beatrice, Nebraska, and a daughter of John C. Emery. Her grandfather was an early pioneer of Beatrice, ran a tavern there, and was burnt out by the Indians. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Clack: Helen Emery and Mary Alice, both attending school in Edgar. From 1903 to 1919 Edward Clack was engaged in the real estate business at Edgar but gave up that line of work in the latter year, purchased an interest in the State Bank of Edgar and was elected cashier. He and his wife are members of the Episcopal church and he is an exemplary member of the Masonic order, being a Shriner and a Knight Templar.

Mr. and Mrs. William Clack are prominent in the social affairs of Edgar and in church activities as members of the Presbyterian church. They are now living retired. Mr. Clack is an earnest supporter of all interests which tend to promote the welfare and progress of his community and his aid and influence are ever on the side of right, truth and advancement. His has been an active, useful and honorable career, resulting beneficially in the upbuilding of Clay county.

PETER L. KISSINGER

Peter L. Kissinger of Fairfield, Clay county, is a self-made man, his success being attributable entirely to his persistent efforts intelligently directed. He is a native of Wisconsin, where his birth occurred at New Cassel in 1857, a son of Jacob and Anna Martha (Triber) Kissinger. Jacob Kissinger was born at Miner on the Rhine, in 1816, while his wife was born at Erfort, Prussia, in 1826 and died March 14, 1899. The demise of Mr. Kissinger occurred in 1891. He came to the United States at the age of twenty-eight years and Mrs. Kissinger came to this country with her parents when a young lady. They were married in Wisconsin on the 17th of September, 1845, and in that state the father followed his trade of shoemaker and about 1846 engaged in farming. In 1878 he removed to Nebraska, where he purchased railroad land, having saved enough money from his labors in Wisconsin to buy one hundred and sixty acres. He improved this land and brought it to a high state of cultivation and as a result it furnished him a substantial income. Some time later he and his wife removed to Glenville and their deaths occurred at that place. Ten children were born to that union, five of whom are living: August, a retired farmer of Hastings; Elizabeth, who is the wife of O. S. Raymond of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, a retired farmer, blacksmith and wagon-maker; Peter L., whose name initiates this review; Henry C., a farmer of Glenville; and William, a farmer and stock raiser in Mexico. Throughout their lives both Mr. and Mrs. Kissinger were devout members of the Baptist church and he always gave his political allegiance to the republican party.

In the acquirement of an education Peter L. Kissinger attended the district schools of Wisconsin and after putting his textbooks aside followed farming in that state for one year. The following year he spent in St. Joseph, Michigan, and then

returned home and worked on a farm for another year. Another twelve months was spent in the feed and flour business at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and he then removed to South Dakota, where he acquired a homestead but was unsuccessful in that venture. Subsequently he went to Iowa, where he worked one summer in order to get enough money to go to California and after removing to that state spent five years in the employ of the Cerro Gordo Freight Company and drove an eighteen mule team stage through the mountains for three years. For two years he was an employe of the San Bernardino Borax Company at San Bernardino and then left that state and removed to Lake Crystal, Minnesota, where he conducted a meat market for one year. On the 5th of January, 1881, Mr. Kissinger located at Glenville, Nebraska, and resided there for thirteen years. Two years of that time was spent in farming, two years in the conduct of a general store and the balance of the time was again turned to farming and stock raising. In 1884 he removed with his family to Fairfield, where he ran a meat market for two years, engaged in stock shipping for a period of eighteen years and for twelve years traveled for the St. Joseph Commission Company. Mr. Kissinger is now engaged in farming, owning two thousand acres of land in Clay county and five thousand acres in Mississippi, also considerable land in Pecos Valley, New Mexico.

On the fourth of October, 1862, occurred the marriage of Mr. Kissinger and Miss Margaret C. Fink, a daughter of G. Z. and Lucinda (Rupp) Fink. Her father was the oldest of six children born to the union of Jacob and Margaret (Zeh) Fink and his birth occurred in Baden, Germany, December 18, 1835. His parents were also natives of Baden, the father having been born there in 1808 and the mother in 1814. They removed to the United States in 1836 and settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1839 her father removed with his parents to Evansville, Indiana, where his father engaged in the lumber business for some time and again removed his family, this time locating in St. Louis, Missouri. Subsequently the family went to Wheeling, West Virginia, and thence to Reading, Pennsylvania, where Jacob Fink passed away in 1867. G. Z. Fink received a liberal education in his native country and was graduated from the Pottsdam Academy. From the age of seventeen to twenty-one he worked as locomotive machinist on the Pennsylvania & Reading Railroad and was later locomotive engineer for a period of fourteen years. While acting as engineer his engine collided with another engine on the fourth of July, 1864, as he was hauling a passenger train loaded with excursionists and although no one was killed several were injured. Soon after that accident he gave up that line of work and in 1865 accepted a position as superintendent of the Blue Creek Oil Company of Charleston, West Virginia, in which connection he remained for two years. He then went into the furniture business at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but after two years' time sold out and became foreman of the furniture factory of Lewis W. Robinson. He resigned that position in 1871, becoming foreman of a lumber company in Perry county, with which he continued until 1873, when he engaged in the carriage and blacksmith business, starting up a factory at Pottstown, Montgomery county, on his own account and in that line achieved more than a substantial amount of success. He later sold his factory, on the sale of which he realized a good sum, and in 1887 located in Glenville township, Clay county, Nebraska, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres from the railroad and engaged in building and contracting. He built the greater portion of the

houses in the town of Glenville. In 1884 Mr. Fink retired from active business life and engaged in farming and also stock raising and trading. The wife of Mr. Fink was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, on the 14th of May, 1830, a daughter of Professor I. D. Rupp, a teacher of languages. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Fink, three of whom are living: Daniel J.; Margaret, who is the wife of the subject of this review; and Addie. Mr. Fink was an exemplary member of the Masons and Odd Fellows and his religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kissinger: Myrtle E., the wife of Fred L. Hill, a prominent and successful farmer of Fairfield; Ralph, who is engaged in farming and stock raising in Fairfield; and Irene, the wife of Homer Garwin, a farmer south of Fairfield.

Mr. Kissinger gives his political allegiance to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. He is fraternally affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. His wife is a consistent member of the Baptist church and belongs to the different societies of that organization as well as to the many clubs of a social nature in Fairfield. During the World war there was no man more active in the support of the government than Mr. Kissinger. He was active in all war drives, assisted in the selling of bonds and bought twenty-five thousand dollars' worth of bonds, two thousand dollars' worth of stamps and gave three thousand dollars to different charity organizations. Mr. Kissinger is one of the wealthiest men in Clay county and certainly deserves credit for what he has achieved, for he had but little when he started out in life and by persistent effort and indefatigable energy has worked his way steadily upward. He has indeed been one of the leading factors in Clay county's growth and development, actuated by a public-spirited devotion to the general good, and while working toward high ideals has utilized the most practical methods in their achievement.

HENRY WOODS

Henry Woods, who for a long period has been in the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company at Aurora, was born in Cass county, Indiana, July 6, 1846, and is a son of John and Susan (Buffington) Woods, the former a native of Kentucky, while the latter was born in Ohio, in which state their marriage was celebrated. At an early day they became residents of Indiana and there the father owned and cultivated a farm up to the time of his removal to Iowa, where he took up his abode in the early '50s. Again he purchased land and concentrated his efforts and attention upon the tilling of the soil. His wife died in Iowa and he later removed to southern Kansas. He and his wife were members of the Baptist church and his political support was given to the democratic party. In their family were eleven children of whom Henry Woods is the youngest.

It was in the district schools of Iowa that Henry Woods pursued his education and in 1862, when but sixteen years of age, he joined the army as a soldier of the Civil war. He enlisted in Company G, Thirty-fourth Iowa Infantry. On account of disability, however, he was discharged in April, 1863. He participated in the battle of Arkansas Post and in the battle of Vicksburg. When the war was over

Mr. Woods returned to Iowa and there continued to make his home for a number of years. It was on the 4th of February, 1871, that he wedded Miss Martha Rook, who was born in Iowa, a daughter of William and Sarah (Wilson) Rook, both of whom were natives of eastern Tennessee, but became pioneer settlers of Iowa. They held membership in the Baptist church and Mr. Rook was a democrat in his political belief. He devoted his life to farming and following the death of his wife, which occurred in the Hawkeye state, he removed to Hamilton county, Nebraska, in 1887, and here purchased a farm which he cultivated for a considerable period. Later he removed to Aurora and was living here at the time of his death. To Mr. and Mrs. Rook were born eight children but Mrs. Woods is the only one living.

For two years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Woods resided in Iowa and in 1873 came to this county where he homesteaded four miles southeast of Aurora. For about ten years they continued to reside on the farm. His labor wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of the place during that period. At the end of a decade, however, he sold his land and removed to another tract not far distant which he had purchased from the railroad company, occupying that farm for about two years. Still later he cultivated a rented farm for a year and then returned to his old neighborhood. In February, 1891, he became a resident of Aurora, where he has since made his home. Here he followed various pursuits for a time, but later devoted twenty years to teaming. He then began working for the Burlington Railroad Company as gateman and has continued in that position, serving altogether for six years. He likewise conducts a boarding and rooming house and this adds materially to his income. His first home in Nebraska was a sod house and later he built a frame dwelling. Today he owns a nice property in Aurora.

To Mr. and Mrs. Woods were born eight children, five of whom are living: Ida, who is the widow of Mat Hendrickson and lives with her parents; Edward, who follows farming in Garfield county, Nebraska; Fred, living in Fremont, this state, where he is employed by the Nye Schneider Fowler Company; Viva, the wife of A. A. Harrison, a railroad man of Fremont; and Ralph, who is a teamster of Aurora.

Mrs. Woods is a member of the Christian church and Mr. Woods belongs to the Brotherhood of Ways and Maintenance and he gives his political support to the republican party. His life has been characterized by diligence and industry and at all times he has enjoyed the respect and goodwill of those with whom he has been brought into contact.

JOSEPH KYNE

Joseph Kyne, prominent in the banking circles of Fairfield, Clay county, as vice president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank, was born in County Galway, Ireland, November 20, 1856, a son of Thomas and Kate (Kearns) Kyne.

Joseph Kyne received his early education in Ireland and at the age of fifteen years came to the United States and here completed his education. He entered a private school at Allegany, New York, and took a commercial course at a commercial college in Dubuque, Iowa. Upon the completion of that course he started railroad

work and for eleven years was station agent and telegraph operator at various places, five years of that time being located in Fairfield. In 1882 he purchased forty acres of school land to which he added from time to time until he had four hundred acres, which he still own, eighty acres being within the city limits. For six years Mr. Kyne farmed and then for fifteen months resumed his former work in connection with railroading. Mr. Kyne has ever been a leader in the development and improvement of Fairfield and for eighteen years successfully conducted a hotel bearing his name in conjunction with the supervision of his farms. Later he traded the hotel for the Brick block where the Farmers & Merchants Bank now stands, of which institution he was one of the organizers and is now vice president. He has a fine home in Fairfield, surrounded by an orchard and many shade trees and he is living practically retired.

In Crete, Nebraska, occurred the marriage of Mr. Kyne and Miss Marinda Hawes, a native of Iowa who came with her parents to Nebraska at the age of three years. Four children have been born to their union: Thomas, whose death occurred in infancy; Thomas Joseph, whose demise occurred in infancy; Arthur of Clay Center where he has been connected with the Johnson Incubator Factory for a period of eleven years; and Albert, who farms the old homestead.

Mr. Kyne passed through all the hardships of the early pioneer days and at the time of his location in Clay county there was not a shingled roof between Fairfield and Deweese. He overcame all obstacles as the result of grim courage and determined effort and is readily conceded to be a self-made man. He is a valued citizen of Fairfield, of which town he has been mayor five times and he is an outstanding figure in financial and business circles. In politics he follows an independent course, giving his support to the man he thinks best fitted for the office without regard to party and he is a Master Mason being an exemplary member of the craft. The religious faith of the family is that of the Christian church.

CARL KUEHNER

Carl Kuehner was a resident of Hamilton county for nearly forty years and here he had his quota of pioneer vicissitudes during the earlier period of his vigorous activities as an exponent of farm industry. He was one of the substantial men and highly esteemed citizens of the county at the time of his death in 1916. He was a native of Germany and seventy-five years of age when he passed away. He gained his early education in his native land, where also he learned the trade of butcher. He established his home in Hamilton county, Nebraska, in the year 1881, and here purchased railroad land and instituted the development of a farm. On his land in Deepwell township he had a frame house, which in dimensions and general appearance well merited the designation of shack, his original barn having been of the sod type. His purchase comprised two hundred and forty acres and of the tract about one hundred acres had been broken, and the remainder received similar treatment at the hands of Mr. Kuehner, who utilized for this purpose an ox team which he purchased after his arrival in the county. In the early days he did most of his



RESIDENCE OF RICHARD KUEHNER

trading at Grand Island and obtained the greater part of his fuel from trees along the river. He lost his crops in the memorable drought years of 1893 and 1894 and met with reverses and trials similar to those of other pioneers of this section of the state. He had persistence, courage and determination; he realized that eventual prosperity could not fail to reward those who here showed their faith by continued work and unbaffled determination and his confidence was fully justified by the success that eventually crowned his own well ordered endeavors and that marked him as one of the specially prosperous and progressive agriculturists and stock raisers of the county of his adoption. He was a man of unassuming worth of character and he and his wife bore well their part in the development and progress of Hamilton county, where their names are held in lasting honor, both having been earnest communicants of the Lutheran church.

In Germany was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Kuehner to Miss Wilhelmina Hiese, and she preceded him to the life eternal, her death having occurred in 1912, when she was seventy-two years of age. They became the parents of seven children: Richard; Robert, a prosperous farmer in Hamilton county; Gottlieb, who met his death through an accident, when he was forty-eight years of age; Herman, who has active charge of the old home farm; Bertha, who is the wife of August Barty, a farmer in Hamilton county; Albertina, who is the wife of Frederick Koenig of Oakland, California; and Martha, who is the wife of William Schmidt of San Francisco, California.

Richard Kuehner, eldest of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Kuehner, was born in Germany, in the year 1863, and in his native land received his early education, having learned to speak, read and write the English language through careful self-discipline after coming with his parents to America, where they established the family home in Nebraska. Richard Kuehner was eighteen years of age at the time of the family arrival in Hamilton county, and thus was able to prove an effective helper in the reclaiming and developing of the pioneer farm. He continued his association with the activities of his father's farm until he had attained to the age of thirty-one years, when he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Deepwell township and began his independent enterprise as a progressive agriculturist and stock raiser. He is now the owner of an excellent farm property of two hundred acres, on which he has erected good buildings, set out a nice grove of cedar trees and made other improvements that mark him as a vigorous and progressive farmer, his attractive homestead being situated in section 20, Deepwell township, and receiving service on rural mail route No. 1 from Doniphan, Hall county. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company in the village of Phillips and is one of the whole-souled and appreciative "boosters" of the county and state in which he has won a goodly measure of material prosperity and an enviable place in popular esteem. He is a republican in politics, but public office has had no allurement for him, though he has given effective service as road supervisor. He is affiliated with the Royal Highlanders and he and his family hold to the faith of the Lutheran church.

At the age of thirty years Richard Kuehner was united in marriage to Miss Rose Bosselman, and they have four children: Gottlieb, Herman, William and Marie. All of the children are now at home, but the two older sons gave loyal

service as soldiers of their native land in connection with the great World war. Gottlieb had been a member of the Nebraska National Guard and in training for active service in the late war he was stationed at Camp Cody, New Mexico. He accompanied his command to France and there served efficiently as dispatch-bearer and as a member of the military police. He received his honorable discharge at Camp Dodge, Iowa. Herman entered service in 1919 and was assigned to duty in the Philippine islands.

J. A. MOSES

The great, broad and rolling prairies of Nebraska have offered splendid opportunities to the agriculturist and many a man who has concentrated his attention upon farming in this state has, as the result of his diligence and determination, won a gratifying measure of success. Such is the record of J. A. Moses, who is now living retired in Aurora. Pennsylvania numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Somerset county that state, on the 11th of March, 1851, his parents being Abraham and Julia (Rhodes) Moses, who were likewise natives of the Keystone state. The year 1856 witnessed their arrival in Illinois and in 1873 they became residents of Iowa. In the three different states Mr. Moses followed the occupation of farming and was thus engaged to the time of his death, which occurred in the Hawkeye state. His widow afterward returned to Illinois, where her last days were passed. They were members of the Evangelical church and Mr. Moses was a republican in his political views. Their family numbered nine children, five of whom survive: T. J., who served through the Civil war and is now an occupant of the Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown, Iowa; Lewis, living at Cedarville, Illinois, where he has retired since putting aside the active work of the farm, in which he was so long engaged Mrs. Mary Cooper, of Belmont, Montana; J. A., of this review; and John, a resident farmer of Cedarville, Illinois.

At the usual age J. A. Moses became a pupil in the public schools of Illinois and afterward spent one winter as a student in a commercial school of Wisconsin. He spent his youthful days on the home farm, working in the fields during vacation periods and before leaving Iowa had become the owner of an excellent tract of land of eighty acres. There he tilled the soil until 1883, when he removed to Caldwell, Kansas, where he again owned and cultivated a tract of land. However, he sold his farm in the Sunflower state and returned to Iowa, where he remained from 1886 until February 24, 1887, when he came to Hamilton county, Nebraska. Two years later, or in 1889, he bought eighty acres of land. This he afterward sold and made investment in a quarter section near Marquette. Eventually he disposed of that property and became owner of ninety acres adjoining Aurora on the west. This, too, he sold and his next purchase was a quarter section northeast of Aurora. In time he disposed of that property and bought land in Deuel county, Nebraska, but afterward disposed of it and now owns land in Box Butte county. He dates his residence in Aurora from 1911 and through the intervening period has lived retired. Here he purchased a pleasant home at 1519 Eleventh street and is now most comfortably situated in life.

In 1875 Mr. Moses was married to Miss Alice Briggs, a native of Illinois and a daughter of William and Marinda (Orm) Briggs, who were natives of Ohio, in which state they were reared and married, but in their early married life became residents of Illinois. In 1906 they established their home in Hamilton county, Nebraska, and both passed away in Aurora. They had a family of seven children, of whom six are living, but Mrs. Moses, the third in order of birth, is the only one residing in Hamilton county save Mrs. Hannah Thomas, of Aurora.

To Mr. and Mrs. Moses have been born seven children: Nellie, the wife of E. R. Garrett, residing on a farm in Hamilton county; Harry, who carries on farming in Guernsey, Wyoming; William, who is engaged in merchandising in Guernsey, Wyoming; David, a clerk in a grocery store in Aurora and also identified with farming interests; George, who likewise lives in Guernsey, Wyoming, and is in the railroad service; Cecil, who is clerking in a grocery store in Aurora; and Cyril, who is a clerk in a dry goods and clothing store in Aurora.

Mr. and Mrs. Moses are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which they take an active and helpful interest, doing all in their power to promote its growth and extend its influence. Mr. Moses belongs to the Modern Woodmen and to the Royal Highlanders and both he and his wife are identified with the Degree of Honor. His political endorsement is given to the republican party, but political honors and emoluments have no attraction for him, yet in all matters of citizenship he stands for that which is progressive and that which is resultant in bringing about the best interests of community, commonwealth and country.

W. F. MACK

W. F. Mack is a retired farmer residing at Clay Center. He was born in Germany, March 19, 1859, and is a son of Jacob and Mary (Wanger) Mack, both of whom were natives of Germany, where they were reared, educated and married. In 1879 they arrived in Nebraska and the father purchased a farm from Herman Trepto, who had bought the land from a railroad company. The place comprised one hundred and sixty acres and Mr. Mack afterward added an eighty acre tract, about three miles south of his original farm. He and his wife continued to spend their remaining days in Clay county and his activities were an element in the further agricultural development of the district. They were consistent members of the Evangelical church and Mr. Mack gave his political endorsement to the republican party. To him and his wife were born five children, four of who are living: Mary, the wife of John Fisher, a merchant of Holstein, Nebraska; W. F.; Christ, who is living in Alberta, Canada; and Rosa, the wife of P. J. Schwab of Clay Center.

W. F. Mack obtained his education in the schools of his native country and worked on his father's farm during his youthful days. He later purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land with money which he had saved from his earnings, his industry and his economy constituting the foundation upon which he has built his success as the years have passed by. At length he traded his original one hundred and twenty acre tract to his father for one hundred and sixty acres, but

later again purchased eighty acres of his first farm and today he owns both properties. Year after year he carefully tilled the soil and cultivated the crops and the annual sale of his farm products added to his income until he felt the sum to be sufficient to provide for all of his needs in his later years and he retired from active business, removing to Clay Center, where he purchased a nice home, while his son now occupies and operates the home farm.

In 1886 Mr. Mack was married to Miss Margaret Steitz, a daughter of Jacob Steitz, who passed away in Germany. The daughter came to the United States with a cousin and was here married to Mr. Mack. To them were born seven children: Eugene, who is now living on his father's farm; Bertha, the wife of Albin Sunilling, a farmer residing in Clay county; Laura, the wife of Aaron Fry, also a farmer of this county; Della, the wife of John Rich, who gives his attention to agricultural pursuits in Clay county; Victor, a resident farmer of the same county; Ruby, in school; and Viretta, who is also attending school. The wife and mother passed away in 1917 and Mr. Mack was again married, in March, 1919, to Louise Einert, the widow of August Einert. By her former marriage she had five children: Helen, the wife of Emil Brauer, an electrician of California; Louisa, the wife of Floyd Bilderback, who is engaged in the butchering business in California; August, a brakeman on a railroad in California; Bertha, the wife of William Weiss, a bookkeeper of Illinois; and William A., who is a machinist, living in Davenport, Iowa. In her maidenhood Mrs. Mack bore the name of Louise Derwald. She lost her first husband in Streator, Illinois, in 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Mack occupy an attractive and commodious modern residence in Clay Center and the hospitality of their home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends. They are members of the Evangelical church and in politics Mr. Mack is a republican. He has served as road supervisor, but has never been active as an office seeker. His entire attention has always been given to his business affairs and he is now president of the Farmers' State Bank of Verona and directs the policy of the institution. However, he makes his home in Clay Center and having put aside the active work of the farm has many hours of leisure in which to follow his inclinations as to pleasure and recreation. His success is well deserved as it has come to him as a result of unfaltering diligence and industry in former years.

A. H. WARREN

A. H. Warren is prominent in the banking circles of Edgar as president of the State Bank of that place. He was born in Canandaigua, New York, on the 26th of May, 1871, a son of C. H. and Cornelia (Hartsough) Warren, both natives of New York. There they were married and when in 1872 the railroad was put through to Harvard, Nebraska, they came west and the father acquired a homestead near that place. In 1876 they moved to Edgar and since that time C. H. Warren has engaged in the grain business. Mrs. Warren passed away February 8, 1920. Six children were born to their union, five of whom are living: Emelia, the wife of George A. Shike, who resides near Baldwin City, Kansas, where he is engaged in farming and holds the office of county treasurer; A. H., whose name

initiates this review; H. B. of Oakland, California, where he has been in charge of the West Coast Life Insurance Company for a number of years; Lucretia, who is the wife of G. N. R. Brown, credit man for Dutton Company at Hastings; and Sherman B., who resides in Fairbury. Mr. Warren is a consistent member of the Baptist church. The grandfather of A. H. Warren was B. F. Warren, who was a minister of the Baptist church. C. H. Warren has always been a stanch supporter of the republican party and his fraternal affiliation is with the Masons. He has served on the school board and city board and was in active service in the Civil war for three years and nine months. He enlisted in the Eighth New York Cavalry and fought in many of the important battles and skirmishes of the war. For some time he carried mail under General Custer. Mr. Warren started out in life on very little but as the result of determination and intelligently directed labor has won more than a substantial amount of success.

A. H. Warren is indebted to the schools of Edgar for his education and his first position after putting his textbooks aside was in a lumber-yard. For twelve years he was active in that connection but in 1903 entered the banking business, establishing a bank at Republican City. For twelve years he remained in that place and then went to Davenport, Nebraska, where he purchased a bank which he conducted for two years. At the termination of that time he returned to Clay county and Edgar and became president of the State Bank of that place. The bank has a capital of twenty-five thousand dollars, a surplus of three thousand, five hundred and average deposits of three hundred thousand dollars. There is no phase of the banking business with which Mr. Warren is not familiar and his uniform courtesy and obliging manner have been factors in the unusual growth of the business of the bank.

In 1892 Mr. Warren was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Clack, and she is a prominent and popular woman in the community, taking an active part in all social affairs.

Mr. Warren gives his political allegiance to the republican party but has never desired political preferment. Fraternally he is identified with the Masons, being a York Rite Mason and a Shriner. He is also interested in agriculture and cattle raising and in partnership with Edward W. Clack owns a fine ranch in Montana.

CHRISTIAN C. LING

While eighteen years have passed away since Christian C. Ling was called to his final rest he is yet remembered by many who knew him while he was still an active factor in the world's work in Hamilton county. He was born in Pennsylvania, May 10, 1842, and departed this life on the 24th of April, 1903. His parents were James and Rachel Ling, natives of Illinois, where their people had settled in pioneer times. The father died in that state and the mother passed away at the home of a daughter in Iowa. Their family numbered seven children.

Christian C. Ling was educated in the schools of Illinois and after putting aside his textbooks took up farming in that state. Having arrived at years of maturity he was married in Illinois on the 25th of September, 1870, to Miss Margaret Baker,

who was born September 19, 1847, a daughter of Nathan and Catherine Baker, who were natives of Pennsylvania and spent their last years in Illinois. The father was a carpenter and served as a soldier of the Civil war, enlisting as a member of Company B, Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry and thus aiding in defense of the Union. His son Pierson also was a member of the same regiment and both served until the close of hostilities which crowned the victory of the Union arms. In his political views Mr. Baker was a republican, supporting the party that was the defense of the Union during the dark days of the Civil war. He belonged to the German Lutheran church and throughout his life he followed the occupation of farming. To him and his wife were born nine children, five of whom are living: Pierson, now a resident of Iowa; Ambrose, who is located in Illinois; Mrs. Ling; William, also of Illinois; and Mrs. Phoebe Fiss, a widow residing in Lincoln.

Mr. and Mrs. Ling began their domestic life in Illinois but after three years removed to Hamilton county in the fall of 1873 and here Mr. Ling homesteaded eighty acres, while later he purchased an additional tract of one hundred and sixty acres. He built a frame house on some railroad land which he had purchased, but the grasshoppers destroyed their crops and they let the land go back to the railroad company, having lost all that they had invested in the property. It was afterward that Mr. Ling took up his homestead and built thereon a sod house, which they occupied for several years. Later he replaced this primitive dwelling with a frame residence, in which he continued to make his home until called to his final rest.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ling were born six children: James N., who follows farming near Loup City, Nebraska; Myron, a real estate dealer and farmer living at Hastings, Nebraska; Catherine, the wife of Myron Smiley, a business man of Bellefourche, South Dakota; Rachel M., the wife of Charles Smith, residing near Aurora; Charles, an auctioneer residing at Cozad, Nebraska; and Harry, who is on his mother's farm near Aurora.

Mr. Ling was a consistent member of the Evangelical church, to which Mrs. Ling still belongs, and his political belief was that of the democratic party. He lived a busy and useful life and was one of the pioneer settlers who aided in reclaiming this region for the purpose of civilization. His sterling worth was recognized by all and he had many friends in the community. In 1910 Mrs. Ling removed to Aurora and purchased a nice home at 1518 P street. She still owns her farm of two hundred and forty acres and the property returns to her a substantial annual income.

JOHN F. SHAW

Since 1911 John F. Shaw has engaged in the garage business at Edgar, Clay county, where he has the Ford agency. Like many other prominent and progressive men of Clay county he is a son by adoption, his birth having occurred at La Fayette, Georgia, August 22, 1863, a son of R. F. and Mary F. (McWhorter) Shaw, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Georgia. The father engaged in farming throughout his life and won a substantial amount of success in that connection. For three years Mr. Shaw saw active service in the Civil war, being a member of the Confederate army. He was captured and when

that conflict came to an end was in a Rock Island prison. He served under General Lee and was his pilot at the battle of Chickamauga. Eleven children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, seven are living and J. F. is the only one residing in Nebraska. Throughout their lives Mr. and Mrs. Shaw were consistent members of the Baptist church and his fraternal allegiance was always given to the democratic party.

In the acquirement of an education John F. Shaw attended the schools of his native state and in due time entered the Sumach College, a small country institution twenty-five miles northeast of La Fayette. After putting his textbooks aside Mr. Shaw engaged in farming and continued in that connection until April 18, 1885, when he located in Otoe county, Nebraska. He learned telegraphy at Ulysses and secured a position with the Burlington Railroad, working for them for a period of twenty years. He then returned to the farm for a short time and in 1911 removed to Edgar, where he took charge of the Ford agency, which agency he had accepted in 1909. Under his management the garage business has grown to extensive proportions and larger quarters were acquired by erecting a fine new building.

In May, 1887, occurred the marriage of Mr. Shaw and Miss Catherine Clayton, a native of Brownville, and a daughter of S. H. Clayton a well known citizen of Brownville and pioneer settler of Nebraska. Her father was a native of Kentucky. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Shaw six children have been born, two of whom are living: Gordon C., in business with his father; and Willa Marie, in school.

Mr. Shaw generally follows an independent course in politics but he slightly favors the democratic party. His religious faith is that of the Christian church, in which faith his children have all been reared and his fraternal connections are with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Woodmen. He devotes his entire time to the conduct of his garage and although crippled he is a man of unbounded energy, carrying forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes in the upbuilding of his business affairs and in the advancement of civic interests. He is readily conceded to be a representative citizen and is rightly entitled to the proud American title of self-made man.

GEORGE F. LEWIS

George F. Lewis, a resident farmer of Clay Center, was born in Scott county, Illinois, April 12, 1857, his parents being Samuel and Mary (Edwards) Lewis, the former born in West Virginia, while the latter was born in Scott county, Illinois. They were married in the latter state, the father having gone to Illinois in young manhood. There he started to provide for his own support by working as a farmer and later removed to Iowa, where he continued to engage in agricultural pursuits. The year 1882 witnessed his arrival in Clay county, Nebraska, where he rented land and again engaged in farming. Both he and his wife passed away in Clay county. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Lewis was a republican in his political views. His father was Samuel Lewis, a native of West Virginia, who went to Illinois at an early day and there continued

to reside until called to the home beyond. The maternal grandfather's name was Edwards, a native of Maine.

In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Lewis were eleven children, nine of whom are living: Ollie, the wife of Rush Kirkpatrick, a carpenter of Kansas; George F.; Edward, a farmer of Colorado; Grant, deceased; May, the wife of Oscar Grooner a minister of the Evangelical church now located in Kansas; Della, the widow of George Ekstein and a resident of Wyoming; J. Kelbert, who for years has been a motorman in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Elmer, a farmer, living near Broken Bow, Nebraska; Orville, a salesman of Brooklyn, New York; Minnie, who died in infancy; and Albert, a farmer of Clay county.

In his youthful days George F. Lewis became a pupil in the public schools of Iowa and afterward took up the occupation of farming as a life work. He was first employed as a farm hand by the month and later rented land in Clay county, thus gaining his start. He made his first purchase of land in 1899, when he acquired eighty acres. He bought this largely on time and finally made the last payment upon it. He also acquired ten acres of land in Clay Center, on which he erected a large residence and now gives his attention to the development and improvement of this ten acre tract, but still owns his eighty acres, from which he derives a good annual income.

In 1889 Mr. Lewis was married to Miss Anna Nall, a daughter of B. F. Nall, mentioned elsewhere in this work. They have become parents of two children: Wilmer O., a graduate of the Wesleyan University and now a student in the State Medical College at Omaha, from which he will graduate in June, 1921, while at the present time he is serving as an interne in the hospital there; and Lela B., at home. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics he is a republican. He has served on the school board but has always preferred to concentrate his efforts and attention upon his business affairs rather than public office and all that he has possessed and enjoyed has come to him through his own labors.

ALEXANDER M. BABCOCK

In the passing of Alexander M. Babcock in June, 1904, Fairfield and Clay county lost an honored and representative citizen. He was born in Knox county, Ohio, on the 17th of November, 1841, and in the acquirement of his education attended the public schools of that county. Later he entered a college at Indianapolis, Indiana, where he prepared himself for teaching, and followed that profession for a number of terms in Indianapolis. He then removed to Missouri, where he taught four terms, and subsequently removed to Illinois, where he also taught school and engaged in farming. There his marriage occurred, he having met his wife while working on her father's farm. In 1884 they came to Nebraska and located in Fillmore county, where Mr. Babcock purchased a three hundred and twenty acre tract of fine land. He later disposed of this property, buying another tract, which is still in possession of his widow and a daughter. In 1891 Mr. Babcock located in Clay county, where he farmed



ALEXANDER M. BABCOCK AND FAMILY



for a number of years, then sold and purchased a farm in Loup county, being in possession of that place at the time of his death. He started in life as a young man with nothing back of him but a grim determination to succeed. He was not afraid to work, paid his own way through school and in later life achieved a success which was well merited.

In 1868 occurred the marriage of Mr. Babcock and Miss Mary J. Moore, a native of Henry county, Ohio, and a daughter of William and Rachel (Williams) Moore, who were also born in that state. Her father was a farmer and in 1865 removed to Illinois, where he purchased a farm. There Mrs. Moore passed away and Mr. Moore's demise occurred in Oregon in 1914. They were the parents of five children, three of whom are now living: Mrs. Babcock; Bettie Gumble, of Daykin, Nebraska; and Lillie Parker, of La Grande, Oregon. Mr. Moore was a stanch republican. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Babcock four children were born: Elmer, a farmer of Atkinson, Holt county, Nebraska; Hattie, the wife of E. N. Gish, a farmer of Twin Falls, Idaho; Carrie, the widow of Al Westering and a resident of Portland; and Edward, a farmer near Atkinson, Nebraska.

Throughout his entire life Mr. Babcock was a stanch republican and fraternally he was identified with the Masons, Knights of Pythias, Ancient Order of United Workmen, and Degree of Honor. His religious faith was that of the Presbyterian church, while Mrs. Babcock is a consistent member of the Christian church. For the past thirty years she has made her home in Fairfield. She is well known throughout the community, being prominent in church and club circles, and she is a member of the Degree of Honor.

WILLIAM P. LANTZER

While in former years William P. Lantzer concentrated his energies and attention upon the development and improvement of a farm he is now living retired, for his former labors brought to him a comfortable competence and he is now able to enjoy a well earned rest. He was born December 17, 1854, in Stephenson county, Illinois, his parents being Samuel and Lucy (Weaver) Lantzer, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, where they were reared, educated and married. It was about 1848 that they took up their abode in Illinois and Mr. Lantzer purchased sixty acres of land from the government at the usual price of a dollar and a quarter per acre. In 1872 he came to Hamilton county, after having resided in Illinois for almost a quarter of a century. Again he became identified with the pioneer life of the west, taking up a homestead of eighty acres and continuing to reside thereon until his death. He first built a small frame house, fourteen by twenty-two feet, and then enlarged it by putting up a sod addition. He was a poor man in early life, but as the years passed success rewarded his persistent and earnest labor and he came into possession of a comfortable competence. He gave his political endorsement to the republican party and both he and his wife consistently followed the teachings of the United Brethren church, in which they held membership. They had a family of seven children, six of whom are living: Daniel, residing on a farm in Hamilton county; Mary, who is the widow of William Mickey

and lives in Aurora; Sophia, the wife of Fred Wolff, a retired farmer of Aurora; Samuel, who was a homesteader in Hamilton county and now lives in Idaho; William P.; and Emma, the wife of R. H. Miller, a newspaper man of Anselmo, Nebraska.

At the usual age William P. Lantzer became a pupil in the public schools of Illinois and there acquired his education, while in the school of experience he has also learned many valuable lessons. He came to Hamilton county with his parents and in 1876 made his first investment in land, thereby becoming the owner of a farm of eighty acres. With characteristic energy he began to cultivate and improve this place and at a later period bought a forty-acre tract and afterward still another eighty acres. He yet owns the entire place, comprising two hundred acres of rich and arable land. To his farm he added many modern improvements and all the equipments necessary to carry on farm work and year by year his labors were crowned with substantial success.

On the 1st of January, 1880, Mr. Lantzer was married to Miss Lizzie Miller, who was born in Switzerland, January 4, 1859, a daughter of Casper and Anna Marie (Hunsinger) Miller, both of whom were natives of Switzerland. In 1871 they became residents of Alabama and afterward lived in Illinois, while still later they came to Nebraska. The mother died in Alabama, but the father spent his last days in Hamilton county. To him and his wife were born four children, three of whom are living: R. H., who is located in Anselmo, Nebraska; Mrs. Lantzer; and Caroline, the wife of G. R. Budy, a retired farmer of Alva, Oklahoma.

To Mr. and Mrs. Lantzer have been born three children: Susie, now the wife of William Marler of Aurora; Harvey, who is living on his father's farm; and Claude, also occupying the farm.

Mr. Lantzer retired when he came to Aurora in the fall of 1912 and purchased a nice home at 1219 Fifteenth street. He and his wife are members of the Evangelical church and his political endorsement is given to the republican party. He went through many of the hardships and privations of pioneer life and has seen remarkable changes since he came to this state. The wild lands have been reclaimed and converted into productive fields, towns and villages have sprung up and the work of civilization has been carried steadily forward. Mr. Lantzer has borne his part in connection with the agricultural development of the county and through his labor and persistency of purpose has gained a satisfactory financial reward.

FRED WOLFF

Fred Wolff, who is now living retired in Aurora, was born in Germany, March 13, 1843, and has therefore reached the seventy-eighth milestone on life's journey. His parents, George and Mary (Mernitz) Wolff, were likewise natives of Germany and in that country the father, who followed the occupation of farming as a life work, passed away. He was quite successful in his business affairs and thus was able to provide a good living for his family, which numbered three sons and two daughters, of whom Fred is the youngest and the only one residing in the new world. Both parents were members of the Lutheran church.

Fred Wolff obtained his education in Germany and worked on a farm in that country. According to the laws of the land he also served in the German army for three years, participating in the war of 1866. It was in 1870 that he crossed the Atlantic, making his way into the interior of the country. He settled first at Freeport, Illinois, and was there employed at farm labor by the month for about two years. In 1872 he arrived in Nebraska and entered a claim five miles north of Aurora. This was then largely an undeveloped region into which civilization had scarcely penetrated. There were great tracts of land still unclaimed and uncultivated and many of the now thriving towns and villages had not yet sprung into existence. Mr. Wolff obtained eighty acres of land, on which he built a small frame building and sod house, and with characteristic energy began the development of his property. As he prospered in his undertakings he bought more land from time to time and he now owns two hundred and forty acres. This land has never had a mortgage on it and although in the early days he faced the hardships and privations of pioneer life, he persevered and as the years went by developed a highly improved farm, bringing his fields under a most attractive state of cultivation.

It was in Freeport, Illinois, in 1872, that Mr. Wolff was married to Miss Sophia Lantzer, sister of William P. Lantzer, mentioned elsewhere in this work. Six children were born of this marriage: Mary, the wife of Irwin Sprague, a retired farmer now residing in California; Leslie, who is living on the home place; and Charles, who is a farmer and cattle raiser making his home near Alliance, Nebraska; Vern O. Wolff was born in 1893 and enlisted for service in the American army in 1917. He was trained at Camp Cody and was sent overseas in July, 1918, and on the 29th of August was wounded, his death resulting the following day. Thus he made the supreme sacrifice for the cause of world democracy. Two other children are deceased. The oldest son, William, died when six years of age; Annie, who married Henry Henderson, died at the age of thirty years.

While Mr. and Mrs. Wolff were numbered among the highly respected and valued farming people of Hamilton county for many years they have since 1905 made their home in Aurora and reside at No. 1505 M street, which property they own. They are members of the Evangelical church and Mr. Wolff has always voted with the republican party since becoming a naturalized American citizen. He is interested in all that pertains to the general welfare and has ever supported those plans and measures which have contributed to the public good and to general progress throughout this section of the state.

EDWARD D. KESSLER

Edward D. Kessler is now living retired in Clay Center, although in former years he was closely associated with farming and other business interests, being for a number of years one of the leading general merchants of the city in which he now makes his home. He was born in Lee county, Illinois, May 20, 1851, a son of Andrew and Cunigunda (Stahn) Kessler, both of whom were born, reared and married in Coburg, Germany. They came to the United States on one of the old-time sailing vessels about 1847 and it required seven weeks to complete the voyage.

They settled on a farm in Illinois and the father, who had been a butcher in Germany, was absolutely without capital when he arrived in the new world, but he utilized every opportunity to win advancement and success. He bought land from the government at a dollar and a quarter per acre and with characteristic energy began to develop and improve his fields. Both he and his wife passed away in Illinois. They belonged to the Evangelical church and were very active in church work, doing all in their power to promote the growth and extend the influence of the religious organization with which they were identified. Mr. Kessler gave his political support to the republican party. To him and his wife were born eight children, of whom five are living: Casper, who was engaged in the grain business at Wheaton, Illinois, is a veteran of the Civil war. After he and his wife were seventy years of age they homesteaded in Sheridan county, Nebraska, where they lived on a farm for two and a half years and are now retired; The second of the family is Edward D.; Phillip is living retired in Chicago and has won substantial success, so that he is now well-to-do; John is a traveling man residing in Cleveland, Ohio; Sarah is the wife of E. J. Reeder, a farmer of Walnut, Illinois.

Edward D. Kessler obtained his education in the public schools of Illinois and afterward learned the trade of painting and decorating, which he followed in that state for a number of years. In 1876 he arrived in Sheridan county, Nebraska, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, known as the Kessler section, for his two brothers acquired the other three quarters on that section. Edward D. Kessler still retains his land there, although he removed to Clay Center in 1885 and established a general store which he conducted successfully for a number of years but disposed of the business in 1895. His wife died that summer and he took his two children back to Illinois, where he engaged in the real estate business and there his daughters were educated.

It was in January, 1877, that Mr. Kessler was married to Miss Ermina Perry, a daughter of Denton Perry, who lived at Rock Falls, Illinois. They became the parents of two children: Clara, now the wife of Clarence Williams, a grocer living at East Moline, Illinois; and Pearl, the widow of Roy Minier and also a resident of East Moline. Mrs. Kessler passed away in 1895 and Mr. Kessler remained a widower for a number of years but in December, 1908, was married to Miss Bertha Tucker who was a school teacher in Illinois for fifteen years, previous to her marriage and was born at Stockton, Illinois, a daughter of Newton and Sarah (Prisk) Tucker, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of England. Mr. Tucker's father was F. L. Tucker, who was the first postmaster at Stockton, Illinois, to which place he had journeyed with team and wagon in 1842. Both Mr. and Mrs. Newton Tucker passed away there, the former in 1918 and the latter in 1915. They were the parents of five children: Mrs. George Robinson, of Hynes, California; Gilbert Tucker, a farmer of Hope, North Dakota; Mrs. Kessler; Charles; and Hettie. The parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and the ancestors of Mrs. Kessler were among the first to espouse the cause of Methodism when the church was established in England.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Kessler have membership in the Methodist Episcopal church of Clay Center, which he joined upon its organization, being a charter member, and fraternally he is a Mason, loyal to the teachings and purposes of the craft. His political endorsement is given to the republican party but the honors and

emoluments of office have had no attraction for him. He is largely living retired, although to some extent he engages in the real estate business and occasionally works as a decorator. He has been very successful in the management and control of his business affairs and is today the owner of a nice modern home in Clay Center. He built his first dwelling at the corner of four townships in Clay Center and this is known as Kessler Corners. His was the first house built in the Dickson addition when he erected his new residence in 1910. There he enjoys the comforts and some of the luxuries of life and his prosperity is well merited, as it has come to him as the just and direct reward of his earnest, persistent labor.

W. J. BOOMER

Commercial enterprise in Edgar, Clay county, finds a worthy representative in W. J. Boomer, who for many years has been conducting an implement business there. He was born in Central, Iowa, August, 1879, a son of J. W. and Martha C. (Banks) Boomer, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of Canada. Their marriage occurred in Illinois and they went to Iowa at an early day. For some time the father engaged in farming there and in 1882 came to Nebraska, settling in Webster county, buying some land and farming until 1900, when he removed to Adams county and there resided until 1904. In that year he went to Thayer county, remaining until 1913, when he moved to Davenport, Nebraska, where he permanently settled and there his death occurred. Ten children were born to that union, six of whom are living. Our subject, W. J. Boomer, was the fifth in order of birth. Throughout their lives Mr. and Mrs. Bommer were consistent members of the Baptist church and his political allegiance was given to the republican party.

W. J. Boomer was a pupil in the schools of Blue Hill, Nebraska, and his first occupation upon putting his textbooks aside was farming. He rented land for two years and then went to Iowa, where he engaged in the stock business. Returning to Nebraska, he farmed for two years and then entered into the implement and hardware business at Lawrence. In 1907 he located in Edgar and established a large implement business, in the conduct of which he has since been active. He operated the business at Lawrence until 1919, when he disposed of it. From 1907 to 1919 he handled the Buick agency also and he was the proud owner of the second automobile in Edgar. In the conduct of his business Mr. Boomer has displayed sound judgment and indefatigable energy and is quick to utilize every opportunity that opens in the natural ramifications of trade. He has extended his business interests to Ong and Davenport, Nebraska, where he has achieved a success along his particular line.

In 1898 Mr. Boomer was united in marriage to Miss May Metcalf, a native of Webster county, Nebraska, and to them two children were born: Buelah, whose death occurred at the age of two years; and Theodore, a high school student. Mr. Boomer was twice married, the second time in 1909 to Della Utz, a native of Illinois.

In politics Mr. Boomer has always been a stalwart republican and he has served

on the town and school boards for many years. Mrs. Boomer is a consistent member of the Presbyterian church and he is fraternally identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, No. 159, at Hastings. Although the greater portion of his time is devoted to his implement business he is interested in the agricultural developments of the county. Mr. Boomer is honored and respected by all who know him, not alone by reason of the success he has achieved but also owing to the straightforward business course which he has ever followed, while his life at all times measures up to the highest standards of manhood and citizenship.

BENJAMIN F. ANDERSON

Benjamin F. Anderson, numbered among the retired farmers living in Aurora, was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, September 28, 1837. He has therefore traveled far on life's journey, passing the eighty-third milestone. His parents were Samuel and Eleanor (Mahannah) Anderson, the former a native of Maryland, while the latter was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania. They were married in the Keystone state and the father there passed away, July 10, 1846, when about forty-six years of age, while his wife departed this life in Illinois, to which state she removed with her half brother, Josiah Scott, who was the guardian of the children. He purchased sixty acres of land for the children and made a payment thereon of two hundred and fifty dollars, while Benjamin F. Anderson later made the additional payments. The support of the family early devolved upon Benjamin F. Anderson, for his older brother had lost an arm and was therefore unable to do much work. The family numbered four sons and two daughters but Benjamin F. Anderson, the third in order of birth, is the only one living. The parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and the father gave his political endorsement to the democratic party.

In the district schools of Illinois Benjamin F. Anderson pursued his education to some extent and also attended subscription schools, but had opportunity to pursue his studies for only about two months each year between the age of nine and fifteen. He early began work in order to provide for the members of his mother's household and his youth was largely a period of earnest and unremitting toil. The sixty acres originally purchased were sold and Mr. Anderson obtained about eight hundred dollars from the sale. In 1872 he removed to Iowa, where he lived for a decade, owning a farm in that state. The year 1880 witnessed his arrival in Nebraska. His previous experience at farming had well qualified him for the work which he undertook here. He had purchased eighty acres of land in Page county, Iowa, following his marriage and after cultivating it for a time had sold it and later bought one hundred and ten acres of land in that state. He then traded his Iowa farm for one half section in Hamilton county. This was railroad land and he paid the balance on the property. He cultivated this for a time but later sold one hundred and twenty acres of the tract, retaining, therefore, two hundred acres. Year by year he tilled the fields and cared for his crops and his diligence, industry, and capable management constituted the basis of a constantly growing success. He continued on the farm until 1910, when he removed

to Aurora, where he had purchased two and a half acres of land near the outskirts of the city. Upon this tract he built a pleasant home and is now living retired.

It was in 1866 that Mr. Anderson was married to Miss Kate B. Yost. She was born in Pennsylvania and her parents were early settlers of Illinois. To this marriage were born four children, of whom three are living: Laura, who is the widow of John G. Miller and resides on a farm in this county; Leona M., living at home; and Frank, who occupies the old home farm of his father and is now serving for the second term as a member of the state legislature. Mrs. Anderson passed away November 19, 1908, her death being a matter of deep regret to many friends as well as to her immediate family. In 1910 Mr. Anderson was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Martha Wilson, the widow of F. M. Wilson and a native of Ohio. By her first marriage she had three children: J. C. Wilson, a farmer living at Stockham, Nebraska; George F., who is a representative of Armour & Company at Los Angeles, California; and Mary E., the wife of George W. Harter, a ranchman and stockman of Highmore, South Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Presbyterian church and are highly esteemed in the community in which they reside. He votes for the republican party and has served in various school offices for a number of years, the cause of education ever finding in him a stalwart champion. His support is always freely given to plans and measures for the general good and his interest in the public welfare is manifest in many tangible ways.

H. E. NEWTON

H. E. Newton, filling the position of assistant postmaster of Aurora, was born in Stark county, Illinois, October 28, 1860. His parents were Oliver R. and Abbie (Pettee) Newton and were natives of New England, the former born in New Hampshire and the latter in Massachusetts. They were married in Stark county, Illinois, the father having become a resident of that state in the '50s while the Pettee family was established there about the same time. Mr. Newton followed the occupation of farming in the Prairie state for a number of years and in 1872 removed to Saline county, Nebraska. In this state he was connected with railroad service, being employed as an engineer. He passed away in California and his widow still survives, making her home in Salina, Kansas. The Newton family is of English lineage and was established in America during the early part of the seventeenth century. In his political views Oliver R. Newton was a republican but never sought nor desired office as a reward for party fealty. To him and his wife were born six children, five of whom are living: H. E. of this review; Jennie, the wife of O. G. Smith, who is a retired farmer and the president of the National Farm Congress and makes his home in Kearney, Nebraska; Ernest, of California, who was formerly engaged in the newspaper business but is now living retired; Vonnie, the wife of Albert Guy, a railroad man of Denver, Colorado; and Oliver G., an express messenger living at Salina, Kansas.

H. E. Newton largely acquired his education in the country schools of Stark

county, Illinois, and later attended the Doan Academy at Crete, Nebraska. He has also learned many valuable lessons in the school of experience. After his textbooks were put aside he became station agent on the Burlington Railroad, serving in that capacity in various places, his last position being that of station agent at Aurora, where he occupied the office from 1890 until 1906. He was a most capable official, courteous and obliging, rendering every possible assistance to the patrons of the road and at all times proving loyal to the interests of the corporation which he represented. On the 1st of June, 1908, he was appointed to the position of assistant postmaster at Aurora and is now acting in this capacity.

In 1883 Mr. Newton was married at Verdon, Nebraska, to Miss Mila A. Peeples, a native of Indiana, and they have become parents of three children: Clyde A., who is engaged in the printing business in Chicago; Alice, the wife of Dr. A. A. Bald, practicing physician of Platte Center, Nebraska; and Edwin, who is part owner of the Aurora Republican and works in the office. Edwin was a musician in the three hundred and thirty-third H. F. A. and went overseas.

Mr. and Mrs. Newton are members of the Congregational church and take an active part in its work while to its support they contribute generously. Mr. Newton was superintendent of the Sunday school for a year and was secretary of the county Sunday School Association for a number of years. In a word, his aid and influence are ever given where it is possible to promote the intellectual and moral progress of the community. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias and with the Masons and both he and his wife are members of the order of the Eastern Star. He served as chancellor commander in the Knights of Pythias Lodge and has been keeper of the record and seal for a number of years. He also belongs to the Sons of the American Revolution for he had three ancestors who fought in the war for independence and he is a direct descendant of Governer Carver, one of the early governors of Massachusetts. Politically Mr. Newton is an earnest republican and aside from serving as assistant postmaster at the present time to the duties of which he is giving his entire attention, he has been mayor of Aurora, occupying the position of chief executive of the city in 1889. His duties have ever been discharged with promptness and fidelity and he is numbered among those men who are laying a broad and deep foundation upon which to build the city's future prosperity and greatness.

JACOB BENDER

Among the prominent business men of Sutton, Clay county, is Jacob Bender, who for many years has been connected with the implement business. He was born in northern Russia in 1854, his parents being Henry and Susanna (Iedt) Bender, both of whom passed away in that country, where they spent their entire lives. The father was a well-to-do cotton merchant in Russia and was of German parentage, his father and mother having come to Russia from Germany in 1767. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bender, only two of whom are living: Jacob, whose name initiates this review; and Amelia, who is residing in Russia. Mr. Bender was active in the civic affairs of Russia, having been a member of the



JACOB BENDER



law-making body of that country, and both he and his wife were consistent members of the German Reformed church.

Jacob Bender received his education in Russia and became an able German linguist. In 1875 he was married and soon afterward came to America. On arriving in the United States he went direct to Clay county, where he bought a farm, having brought sufficient funds with him on his journey. For eight years he resided on this farm, which he brought to a high state of cultivation, and at the end of that time removing to Sutton, where he entered an implement store in the capacity of clerk in order to gain thorough knowledge of every phase of the business. In due time he entered that line of business in partnership with a Mr. Zimbelman, conducting the establishment for fourteen years under the firm name of Bender and Zimbelman. At the termination of that period Mr. Bender bought out his partner's interest and conducted the business under the name of Jacob Bender. Recently, however, he has taken his son into the firm, which is now known by the name of Bender & Son. Mr. Bender has the distinction of being one of the oldest, if not the oldest, of the implement dealers in the state of Nebraska and his business has so increased that his trade now covers a large portion of the county. He is in possession of some Oregon land, in the cultivation of which he takes an active interest, and he also owns some property in Texas. In the financial circles of Sutton Mr. Bender is also prominent, being one of the stockholders in the City State Bank.

Before coming to America, in 1875, Mr. Bender was married to Eugenia Rice, whose father was until the time of his death a school teacher in Russia. To them six children have been born: Henry, who is an auctioneer and makes his home in Sutton; he is married and has two children: Wilferd, who served one year in the World war, and Leota, who is at home; Emma, who is the wife of E. E. Trabert, D. V. S., at Davenport, Iowa; Theresa, who is the widow of Dr. H. Benning and makes her home at Eustis; John; N. G.; and Irmengard, who is practicing at Oroville, California, she having graduated from the Palmer School of Chiropractors at Davenport, Iowa. John Bender is living in Knoxville Tennessee, where he is a director in the State University. While he was a student at the State University of Nebraska he was a star football player and was captain of the football team for two years. After graduating from the University he took a law course in St. Louis, but has never engaged in active practice. He was in service during the World war, receiving a captain's commission. N. G. Bender received his education in the schools of Sutton and attended Nebraska University during the years 1905 and 1906. He then took a trip around the world, representing Parlin and Orendorff Plow Company of Canton, Illinois, in Europe. He married Miss Clara Landsmann and they have two children: Gretchen, seven years of age; and Paul, four years of age. Mr. Bender recently became a member of his father's firm. He is prominent in Masonic circles, being an Ancient Free and Accepted Mason and having taken the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite. He is a Knight Templar and Shriner and for two years was master of the blue lodge of Sutton, Nebraska, and served as a member of the grievance committee of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska.

The political allegiance of Mr. Jacob Bender is given to the republican party and for six terms he served his fellow townsmen as mayor. The religious faith

of the entire family is that of the First Reformed church of Sutton. Fraternally Mr. Jacob Bender is an Ancient Free and Accepted Mason and has taken the thirty-second degree in the Scottish Rite. He is one of the foremost citizens of his community, his general efficiency and business sagacity making him a leader in every progressive movement, while his upright principles and integrity have won for him the esteem of all with whom he has had transactions.

RASMUS PETERSON

Among the residents of Aurora who formerly were identified with agricultural interests and by reason of the success which they won from the soil are now living retired without the necessity for further recourse to labor, is Rasmus Peterson who was born in Denmark, February 9, 1850, his parents being Peter and Kersten Rasmussen who were likewise natives of that country, where they always resided until called to their final rest. They were the parents of five children, two of whom are residents of Hamilton county, the daughter being Mary, the wife of John Peterson, now a retired farmer.

Rasmus Peterson of this review pursued his education in the schools of his native land and was reared to farm life, early acquainting himself with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. In late years he kept in touch with the progressive methods which revolutionized farming and by reason of his enterprise and industry, won success. He came alone to the United States in 1870 and settled first in Illinois where he worked as a farm hand by the month, continuing a resident of that state until 1883, when he sought the opportunities of the growing west and became a resident of Hamilton county. He had cultivated rented land in Illinois and following his arrival in Nebraska in 1883 located with his family upon an eighty-acre tract of land which he had purchased the previous year. Their original home was a sod house and their experiences were those that usually fall to the lot of the pioneer settlers. Later Mr. Peterson bought more land and erected a frame house upon his place. After a time he sold his first farm and became owner of two hundred and forty acres two miles east of Aurora. This he still has and it today constitutes one of the valuable and improved properties of this section of the state. He started out in life empty handed but he possessed resolute purpose and his hard work and discrimination have been salient features in bringing to him his present day prosperity.

Before leaving Illinois Mr. Peterson was married in 1879 to Miss Christina Peterson, who was born in Denmark, a daughter of Peter and Carrie (Nelson) Peterson who came to America in 1863 and to Illinois in 1865. The father was a blacksmith and followed his trade in that state for a number of years, but his last days were spent on a farm. To Mr. and Mrs. Peterson were born four children: Clara, the wife of Frank Rowley, a resident farmer of Box Butte coutny, Nebraska; Charles E., who is occupying and cultivating his father's farm in this county; Ida, the wife of Paul Holdgraf, a resident farmer of Hamilton county; and Howard, who is now a junior in the State University. He enlisted in the World war in April, 1917, at which time he was a University student. He was

trained in Camp Cody and was sent across in August, 1918, reaching the scene of action in October, but the armistice was signed before he got into any engagement. The family residence is at No. 1113 Fifteenth street, where they have a modern home. Mr. Peterson is a republican in his political belief and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. His present position is in marked contrast to his condition and environment when he came to this country, for he was then without capital save a stout heart and willing hand. His record is another illustration of the fact that courage and industry are the worth-while factors in the business life and by reason of these qualities he is today occupying a place among those men who are comfortably situated and constitute a substantial element in the citizenship of Aurora.

GEORGE M. WHITE

Virtually half a century has passed since the parents of George M. White numbered themselves among the pioneer settlers of Hamilton county, Nebraska, about four years after the admission of the state to the Union and it was in their bleak and isolated little sod house in Union precinct, that in the following year, on the 7th of December, 1872, their son, George M., was born. The latter thus has the distinction of being not only a representative of an honored pioneer family of this county but is also a native son and today is numbered among the substantial citizens and prosperous farmers of the township and county in which he was born and reared, his well improved homestead farm being situated in section 13, Union township. He is a son of Warren P. and Anna M. (McGill) White, the former of whom was born at Whitehall, New York, and the latter in the city of London, England, their marriage having taken place in the old Empire state and the father having been an early settler in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he not only became actively associated with farm enterprise but also proved a successful and popular teacher in the local schools. In 1871 Warren P. White set forth with his family for the new state of Nebraska, the overland journey being made with a team and covered wagon, in which vehicle were transported the little stock of household effects and also a few requisite farm implements. In the wake of the wagon plodded the cow, which was brought along as a valuable asset of the farm to be established on the prairie wilds of Hamilton county. Mr. White entered claim to a homestead of eighty acres in what is now section 24, Union township, and here he provided as the first habitation for his family a sod house of the primitive type common to the period. Later he erected a small frame house, but in the early days it required courage and fortitude on the part of this sterling pioneer and his wife to withstand the adverse conditions and lonely life which fell to those who thus essayed the initial work of development and progress. They met with losses through grasshoppers and droughts, had to go to distant points for provisions and had the experience of being snowbound in the memorable Easter blizzard of 1873 that is recalled as one of the worst storms ever recorded in this section of the state. The parents remained on their old homestead until their death and were granted the prosperity that was a just reward for all they had suffered and endured in the pioneer days.

Mrs. White passed to eternal rest in 1904 and her husband was venerable in years at the time of his death, in 1916, the names of both having high place on the roll of the honored pioneers of Hamilton county. Both were earnest members of the Presbyterian church, Mr. White was independent in politics and was affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Of the five children John and Owen died young; George M., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Ernest died in childhood; and Perry is a prosperous farmer in the state of Idaho.

A little sod schoolhouse in Union township was the stately institution of learning in which George M. White first pursued his studies, and as a boy and youth he found plenty of work to do on the pioneer farm. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, when he initiated an independent farm enterprise, on rented land. In 1900 Mr. White purchased one hundred and twenty acres in his native township and around this nucleus has evolved a well improved and valuable landed estate of two hundred and forty acres, all given over to well ordered enterprise along the lines of diversified agriculture and stock raising. His loyalty to his native county and state is unstinted and he takes satisfaction in having here been able to achieve substantial success, besides contributing incidentally to the general civic and industrial advancement of the community. He has had no ambition to hold political office and is independent of strict partisan lines, which implies that he gives his support to men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment. He has been for more than a quarter of a century actively affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. The maiden name of his wife was Mary C. Maw, and their only child, Ella, is the wife of William Springer, a progressive farmer of Hamilton county.

JOHN BEACOM

The old Keystone state has contributed its quota of pioneer citizens to Nebraska and among the number is the representative farmer, John Beacom, who came to Hamilton county as an ambitious youth, with courage and self-reliance that enabled him so to take advantages of opportunities as to win for himself a generous measure of prosperity, though he encountered his share of the discouragements and losses that marked the earlier period in the history of this section of the state.

Mr. Beacom was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, on the 6th of March, 1860, and is a son of James and Susanna (Hill) Beacom, both likewise natives of Pennsylvania and both of English lineage. John Beacom was reared on the home farm and gained his youthful education in the district schools of his native county, where he remained at the parental home until he had attained to the age of eighteen years. He then came to Nebraska, in 1878, and in June of that year found employment on a farm in Hamilton county. He entered into an agreement thus to give his services for one year, at a stipulated wage of one hundred and fifty dollars a year, and continued to be associated with farm enterprise under these conditions during the first three years of his residence in the county. In 1878 he purchased eighty acres of railroad land in Orville township, erected on the place a frame house, sixteen by twenty-four feet, and also a frame barn, besides

setting out trees, including an orchard, most of which has died out. He assumed active charge of the breaking of the prairie soil, faced with courage and resourcefulness the various trials and disadvantages that he encountered and forcefully carried forward his farm enterprise year after year, with the result that increasing prosperity came to him. He is now the owner of a valuable farm property of two hundred and eighty acres in section 17, Orville township, Hamilton county, besides a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Thomas county, Kansas. On his Hamilton county land he has provided three separate sets of buildings and other requisite improvements of permanent order and has the satisfaction of knowing that his possessions represent the direct results of his own efforts in connection with the development and advancement of the agricultural and live stock industry in this new favored section of Nebraska. In the early days his nearest trading point was the village of Harvard, Clay county; he took his grist to a water-power mill on Blue river and most of his fuel was obtained from trees lining the banks of nearby water courses. The drought of 1894 destroyed his crops and left him, as well as all other settlers, with depleted income for that season, but he faced this problem with the same fortitude and resourcefulness that he had faced other adversities. Mr. Beacom has been at all times enterprising and progressive in his farm activities and in the live stock department has given special attention to the raising of red polled cattle and a good grade of Poland China hogs.

In 1883 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Beacom to Miss Lucinda Van Duesen, whose parents, mentioned elsewhere in this work, were numbered among the early settlers of Hamilton county. Mr. and Mrs. Beacom became the parents of four children: Ida is the efficient and popular postmistress at Stockham; William and George died young; and Ray remains at home.

Mr. Beacom is one of the substantial and popular citizens of the county, is a republican in politics, and is a stockholder in the farmers' elevator companies at Stockham and Aurora. His fine homestead farm is situated in section 17, Orville township, on rural mail route No. 2 from the village of Stockham. He attends and supports the Presbyterian church at Stockham, of which his wife is an active member.

HUBERT E. POTTER

Hubert E. Potter, a retired farmer of Fairfield, was born in McHenry county, Illinois, on the 13th of April, 1856, a son of Simeon and Almira (Tuttle) Potter, both natives of Pennsylvania. For many years the father successfully engaged in farming in Illinois but in 1885 removed to Clay county, where he retired and lived until his death at the age of eighty-six years. Mrs. Potter passed away at the age of seventy-eight, their deaths coming within three weeks of each other. A sister of Mr. Potter's also came to Nebraska, in 1880, and she is the wife of Walter Prickett, a former lawyer of Fairfield.

In the acquirement of an education H. E. Potter attended the country schools of Illinois and helped his father on the home farm. When twenty-four years of age he started farming on his own account and rented land for three years. In 1886, however, he came to Nebraska and bought railroad land near Kearney at two

dollars and fifty cents per acre which land he subsequently traded for two hundred and forty acres belonging to Henry Jenkins in Clay county. There were few improvements on the land, a small shanty serving for a house, and Mr. Potter broke the greater part of his farm himself. He applied himself diligently to farming, advanced rapidly along that line and now owns a half section of land and one set of improvements. He put out a fine orchard and also five hundred shade trees. He engaged in general farming, stock raising and feeding and specialized in breeding Poland China hogs. In April, 1906, Mr. Potter retired from farm life and removed to Fairfield, where he purchased a fine home. For some time he conducted a garage, selling Buick and Overland cars and in the year 1917 averaged twenty-five orders for Buick cars in five weeks.

The marriage of Mr. Potter to Martha L. Dodge occurred at Beloit, Wisconsin. She is a native of Vermont and has become the mother of the following children: Arthur, who passed away at the age of five years; Bessie, who died when three years of age; Maude, who is the wife of Clarence Iliff, farming the old homestead of Mr. Potter; Mollie B., married to Winifred Iliff, a brother of Clarence, the two marriages being celebrated at the same time and being the first event of that kind in the county; Roland H., cashier of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Fairfield for four years; and Louie, whose death occurred at the age of three months.

Mr. Potter gives his allegiance to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. For nine years he was a member of the school board and for eight years served on the town board. Both Mr. and Mrs. Potter are consistent members of the Baptist church and he is fraternally identified with the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America and has been a member of the Ancient Order of the United Workmen for a period of twenty-eight years. Mr. Potter always gives his earnest support and cooperation to all matters and projects looking to the welfare and advancement of his community and the state at large and is indeed a valued and representative citizen of Fairfield and Clay county.

WILLIAM A. STEWART

William A. Stewart, after long years of connection with agricultural interests in Clay county, is now living retired at Springranch. A native of Ireland, he was born in County Downs on the 28th of March, 1858, a son of Robert and Jane (Craig) Stewart, both of whom were born in that country. Their ancestors left Scotland on account of religious persecutions and located in Ireland. In 1868 Mr. and Mrs. Stewart came to the United States and located in Henry county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming for the remainder of his life. His death occurred in 1887, seven years before his wife's death. Seven children were born to that union, four of whom are living: W. A., whose name initiates this review; James, a farmer of Fairfield; Robert, a farmer of Red Willow county; and Flora, who is the wife of Hugh Carry, a truck farmer of Coal Valley, Illinois. Throughout life Mr. and Mrs. Stewart were consistent members of the Presbyterian church and the father was a stanch supporter of the democratic party, being a firm believer in the efficacy of the principles of that party as factors in good government. Mr. Stewart

made a success in life and the last years of his residence in Clay county were spent in retirement.

William A. Stewart received his education both in Ireland and the United States, coming to this country with his parents at the age of ten years. After putting his textbooks aside he engaged in farming in Redwillow county from 1887 to 1910, achieved more than a substantial amount of success in that connection and became one of the leading agriculturists of the county. In 1910 he removed to Clay county, where he purchased a farm which he operated until 1920 and then retired from active farm life, moving to Springranch. He sold his land in Redwillow county to a son, but retains one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land in Clay county and a similar tract in Minnesota. For a short time after locating in Springranch he conducted an implement business but he soon gave that up to live in absolute retirement, enjoying the rewards of former diligence and industry. He is now owner and president of the Blue Valley State Bank.

In 1885 occurred the marriage of Mr. Stewart to Miss Lizzie Thomas, a native of Coal Valley, Illinois, and to them four children have been born: Robert, who is engaged in farming in Clay county; John D., farming in Redwillow county; Gladys, the wife of C. A. Pomroy, a farmer of Clay county; and William E., cashier of the bank at Springranch.

Mr. Stewart follows an independent course in politics, voting for the man he thinks best fitted for the office without regard for party. He is a stanch advocate of education and has served on the school board ever since coming to Nebraska. Mr. Stewart had but little backing when he came to Redwillow county and his success is due to his own determined effort. His has been a useful and active life, fraught with good results and his energy has been a potent element in his continued advancement.

F. M. COLEMAN

F. M. Coleman, editor of the Auxiliary, is a representative of one of Fairfield's most important business interests. A native of Iowa, his birth occurred at Decorah on the 20th of October, 1859, a son of Dr. W. F. and Agnes (Grout) Coleman, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Newmarket, Canada. Their marriage was celebrated in Illinois. Dr. Coleman received his education in the line of professional work at the Rush Medical College of Chicago and immediately after his graduation began practicing at Woodstock, Illinois. In 1855 he removed to Decorah, Iowa, and practiced in that town until his death in 1886. Dr. and Mrs. Coleman were the parents of nine children, five of whom are living: Viola, who is the wife of W. R. Toye, a dentist of Decorah; F. M., whose name initiates this review; Alta L., who is the wife of J. Christinsen of Clarinda, Iowa, a photographer; Herbert H., president of the Delion Tire and Rubber Company of East Orange, New Jersey; and L. P., a dentist of Milwaukee. Throughout his life Dr. Coleman was a stanch democrat and both he and his wife were consistent members of the Congregational church. Dr. Coleman was also a Mason, being an exemplary member of the order. On the outbreak of the Civil war Dr. Coleman

offered his services and in that year became assistant surgeon of the Seventeenth Iowa, Tenth Missouri and Fifth Wisconsin batteries, serving a period of three years and nine months.

F. M. Coleman is indebted to the schools of Decorah, Iowa, for his education and his first occupation on putting his textbooks aside was as a member of a band, in which connection he continued until 1886. In that year he entered the office of a paper in Edgar as printer and after thoroughly mastering that line of work went to Omaha and traveled on the road for a concern for a year. At the end of that time he went to Minneapolis, Kansas, and until 1895 was in the employ of a newspaper there. In that year he came to Clay county and located in Fairfield, where he purchased the Tribune, afterwards disposing of it and starting the Auxiliary. The paper is a weekly and has a large and ever increasing circulation. In connection with the paper he runs a job printing business and does a great quantity of work along that line.

In 1888 Mr. Coleman was married to Miss Ada L. McCumber of Minneapolis, Kansas, a daughter of Edwin K. McCumber, an early settler of Polk county, Nebraska. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Coleman two sons have been born: Harry W., engaged with his father in the printing business; and Roy L., in the garage business.

The political allegiance of Mr. Coleman has always been given to the democratic party, in the interests of which he has taken an active part. His fraternal affiliations are with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Coleman has proved himself to be versatile, for not only has he engaged in printing, traveling, and other newspaper work, but at one time followed the painting and paper hanging trade, achieving a great amount of success along that line. His paper is conducted upon only the highest and most honorable principles and supports every movement he deems of value to the improvement and development of the community.

THOMAS D. CASE

In making a survey of the attractive farm now owned by the veneral citizen and honored pioneer of Hamilton county, Thomas D. Case, it is difficult to realize that in the early days he here was compelled to view, with impotent consternation, the effective work of grasshoppers, which not only made away with all growing vegetation on the pioneer farm but also partially stripped the bark from the trees which Mr. Case had planted on the place. The retrospective view would disclose also many other trials and hardships which Mr. Case had to endure, and he doubtless found little consolation in the old saying that "misery loves company," for he deplored the similar experiences which came to his fellow pioneers. In the gracious evening of a long and worthy life he is living in peace and prosperity on the farm of his son, W. H., in section 14, Scoville township, surrounded by his son and wife and both grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and it is pleasing to enter in this history a record of his career.



THOMAS D. CASE AND FAMILY



Mr. Case was born in Wayne county, Ohio, August 8, 1830, his father, Samuel Case, having been a native of New Jersey and a pioneer farmer in Ohio, in which latter commonwealth he and his wife passed the closing years of their lives. The subject of this review profited fully by the advantages offered in the common schools of his native state, as is evident when it is recalled that in the early days he did effective service as a teacher, serving in that capacity ten terms in Indiana and one term in Nebraska. When the integrity of the nation was menaced by armed rebellion on the part of the southern states, Mr. Case promptly tendered his aid in defense of the Union. At Warsaw, Indiana, on the 2d of August, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Company M, Fifth Indiana Cavalry, and with this gallant command he gained abundant experience in connection with progress of the great conflict between the north and the south. He took part in the battle of Fort Saunders, did much scouting duty of arduous and hazardous order and on one occasion engaged in a hand-to-hand conflict with a Confederate soldier. The two fired from their horses at close range and after he had exhausted the loads in his revolver Mr. Case attempted to use his saber in subduing his antagonist, but the latter struck him over the head with his revolver, unhorsed him and effected his capture, on the 2d of December, 1863, early in the morning, near Knoxville, Tennessee. For three and one-half months thereafter Mr. Case was held in captivity at Belle Isle prison, in the James river, Virginia, where he experienced the neglect and hardships which brought this and other Confederate prisons into odious historical repute. On the 13th of March, 1864, Mr. Case was one of one thousand two hundred Confederate captives who were loaded on trains and started for the prison at Andersonville. When within about twenty miles of Raleigh, North Carolina, Mr. Case began to use a jackknife in cutting through the floor of the car, and by working at night he and two companions made an aperture through which they dropped to the ties of the railroad and made their escape. About twelve miles distant they were given refuge by Quaker families, among whom they remained two and one-half months. After the snow had melted from the Alleghany mountains the three Union men made their way on foot over the mountains and reported to General McPherson, then in command at Knoxville, Tennessee. Mr. Case was given a furlough of thirty days, which he used in visiting his home and upon his return to headquarters General McPherson obtained for him a commission as recruiting officer. In this office he thereafter enlisted eight hundred and forty-four men, of whom four hundred and four were negroes, and he continued in this special service until about four months prior to receiving his honorable discharge, his final service being that of scout duty and his discharge was received at Knoxville on August 22, 1865.

After the war Mr. Case continued to be actively identified with farm enterprise in Indiana until 1873, when he came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where in March of that year he filed claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, in section 22, township 9, range 8. He then returned to Indiana, and upon coming again to Nebraska was accompanied by his family. On his land he began the erection of a sod house, but before he could roof the same a three days' rain washed down and demolished the sod walls. He and his family lived in the village of Harvard during the memorable Easter blizzard of 1873 and

on his place he thereafter provided a frame house, in which the family home was established. Most of the native timber which Mr. Case early planted on his homestead remains and is of excellent growth, and of his first orchard about forty trees are still standing. He broke his land and though he lost by the devastation of dry seasons and grasshopper visitations, he did not lose heart but endured such labors, responsibilities and reverses as came to him, as to other pioneer settlers, and with the fleeting years generous prosperity crowned his earnest and well ordered activities as an agriculturist and stock raiser. In addition to his original homestead he took a tree claim of equal area, all of which he later sold, not now owning any land. Mr. Case taught one term of school in this county and also worked more or less at the carpenter's trade, in which he had become a skillful workman. In politics he was originally a whig, but he has been a stanch supporter of the republican party from the time of its organization. He has served Hamilton county as justice of the peace, is a member of the Baptist church, as was also his wife, both having previously held membership in the United Brethren church. His continued interest in his old comrades of the Civil war has been shown in his affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic.

In Stark county, Ohio, September 10, 1850, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Case to Miss Jane Wagoner, who was born and reared in that state, and who remained his devoted companion and helpmate for more than half a century until the gracious ties were severed by her death, on the 27th of February, 1907. Of their children the firstborn, Samuel N., is deceased, as are also Philip H., Elizabeth A., Edwin L., Jennie and Minnie May. William H., who was a homesteader in 1877 and with whom his father makes his home; Thomas J. resides at Delmont, South Dakota. Since the death of his loved wife Mr. Case has remained with his sons, Edwin L. and William, but since the death of his son, Edwin L., he has lived with William, and he is one of the patriarchal citizens and honored pioneers of Hamilton county.

WILLIAM EMRICH

Among the leading business men of Fairfield, Clay county, who have risen to prominence by persistent and honest effort, is William Emrich. He was born in Jefferson county, New York, June 20, 1873, a son of John and Anna M. (Mitchell) Emrich, also natives of that state. The paternal grandfather, Frederick Emrich, was born in Germany and came to the United States in early manhood. He made his residence in New York state, where he followed the trade of a cooper and was a prominent and successful citizen of the community in which he resided. The maternal grandfather was Henry Mitchell, also a native of Germany, who after his marriage came to the new world and located in Nebraska, where he resided until death. The parents of William Emrich were married in New York and in 1875 went to Illinois, where the father followed farming. They resided in that state for four years and in 1879 came to Clay county, John Emrich buying some farm land on which they resided for a number of years. Mr. Emrich passed away

on the farm but his widow is still living and makes her home in Fairfield with William. Six children were born to that union, five of whom are living: William, whose name initiates this review; Frank H., a farmer of Indianola; Mattie E., who is the wife of Charles J. Crawford, a farmer near Oxford; Lottie E., who is now Mrs. Robert Wilson and resides in Denver, Colorado; and John J., a railroad man of Fairfield. Throughout his life Mr. Emrich was a consistent member of the Christian church and his fraternal relations were with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, having seen service in the Civil war as a member of Company I, Fourteenth New York Heavy Artillery. He was wounded at Spottsylvania Courthouse and being disabled for further service was discharged and went to Illinois, where he stayed for five or six years, at the end of that time returning to New York. He was married there and soon after returned to Illinois, subsequently locating in Nebraska.

In the acquirement of an education William Emrich attended the schools of Clay county and his first occupation after putting his textbooks aside was farming. He followed that line of work until 1902, when he moved into Fairfield and opened a blacksmith shop which he conducted until 1910. From that year until 1917 he was connected with the garage business in Fairfield having the Ford agency, but selling out that business he again turned to farming. He had purchased some land in Colorado, three hundred and twenty acres, and although he never moved on this land he operated it while residing in Fairfield. In 1919, however, he engaged in the real estate and insurance business, in which line he is still active. He has built up an ever increasing trade and is considered one of the most able and reliable real estate men in the county. Mr. Emrich has never married and makes his home with his mother.

Politically Mr. Emrich follows an independent course, giving his support to the man he thinks most fitted for the office without regard to party. Fraternally he is a Knight of Pythias and is now serving as past chancellor of that lodge for the fifth time. He has been through all the offices of that lodge also and for twenty years has been the illustrious protector of the Highlanders. Mr. Emrich has the past lodge degree of the state. He likewise holds membership in the Modern Woodmen and Royal High and Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan. In the civic affairs of Fairfield Mr. Emrich has also been prominent, having served his fellowmen as mayor for five terms. In 1904 and 1905 Mr. Emrich was a member of the city council. He is now devoting his entire time to the insurance and real estate business and his farm in Colorado. His friends, and they are many, recognize in him a public-spirited citizen, an alert and progressive business man, a faithful friend and a most congenial companion.

T. B. JOHNSON

There were seasons when hardships came to the farmer and when conditions were most discouraging, but with the passing years success has rewarded the efforts of the persistent, energetic agriculturist, for the development of the soil has resulted in splendid crops and success has come to the farmer in such a measure

that the representatives of this class are now enabled to live retired, enjoying in well earned rest the fruits of their former toil. Such is the record of T. B. Johnson of Aurora, who was born in Ripley county, Indiana, July 23, 1848.

T. B. Johnson spent the days of his boyhood and youth in Iowa, being but three years of age when the family home was established in that state. He was reared in the usual manner of the farm bred boy and after the outbreak of the Civil war he joined the Union army as a member of Company E, Eleventh Missouri Infantry, enlisting at St. Louis and serving for ten months, during which time he participated in the Siege of Spanish Fort, Louisiana. He received his discharge in January, 1866, and after the war returned to Appanoose county, Iowa, being but seventeen years of age when mustered out of the army. He later attended school at Moulton, Iowa, and then took up the profession of teaching which he followed for several terms in that state.

In 1872 Mr. Johnson removed to Nebraska and obtained a homestead nine and a half miles from Aurora, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of land. He afterward acquired more land and continued to cultivate his place until 1888, living in a sod house until 1881 and experiencing all the hardships and privations of pioneer life.

Mr. Johnson then returned to Iowa and was married to Elizabeth Jordon, who was born in Davis county, that state, in 1851, a daughter of Samuel and Jeretta (Bunten) Jordon, who were natives of Kentucky and Virginia, and removed to Indiana. They afterward came to Iowa and continued residents of that place until their death. In 1875 Mr. Johnson brought his wife to the little sod house on the western prairie and lived in that primitive dwelling during the winter while he taught school, a profession which he later followed for four terms. In the spring they moved into the barn on the place and he built a larger sod house with a shingle roof. In 1881 he took a trip to the Black Hills but returned in the fall and then built a three room frame dwelling. In the meantime he had purchased more land until he became the owner of four hundred and twenty acres which he carefully developed and improved, bringing the tract under a high state of cultivation. In 1893 he sold a portion of his farm and later disposed of the remainder. At one time he bought land in Custer county, Nebraska, and this he also sold. He was likewise the owner of a farm in Harlan county which he afterward sold and bought eight hundred acres in Dundy county which he owned until 1918. While he had farms in these various localities he was living in Aurora, having established his home in this city in 1889. He and his wife have a comfortable and attractive residence standing in the midst of ten acres of ground. Mr. Johnson started in business in Nebraska with very little capital or possessions. He had two horses but lost one of them during the memorable Easter storm of 1873 and afterward traded the other horse in payment for having some of his land broken. There is no phase of pioneer life in Hamilton county with which Mr. Johnson is not thoroughly familiar and throughout all the intervening years he has borne his full part in the work of general progress and development. He and his wife are members of the Christian church and take an active and helpful interest in its work and he belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic of which he is now serving as commander in the local post and previously he occupied the same position. He cast his first presidential vote for General Grant in 1868 and has since been a

stalwart advocate of republican principles. He became the first representative from Hamilton county to the state legislature, serving in 1877 and 1878, and he has also been a member of the school board. In fact he has supported every interest and measure which he has believed to be of value to the community and the commonwealth and his aid and influence are always given on the side of right, progress, reform and improvement.

JOHN PALMER

Fairfield numbers among her old pioneers John Palmer, who is there living retired, enjoying the fruits of his former industry. He was born in Berwickshire, Scotland, August 8, 1846, a son of Alex B. and Mary (Younger) Palmer, also natives of Scotland who came to the United States, landing in this country on the 20th of July, 1853. For three years they made their home in Columbiana county, Ohio, and then removed to Tuscarawas county, where they remained for six years. For over ten years the father engaged in farming in Piatt county, Illinois and in 1871 came to Clay county and acquired a homestead of eighty acres. In 1872 Alex Palmer and his daughter started out in a wagon and were followed by the mother and the remainder of the family in the Fall of that year. Thirty-one days were required in making the trip and many were the hardships they experienced. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, three of whom are living: John, whose name initiates this review; Margaret Van Meter, a widow residing in Fairfield; and Mrs. Catherine Broderick, also a resident of Fairfield. The father was a charter member of the Congregational church and always gave his political allegiance to the republican party. The success Mr. Palmer attained was the result of his own determined effort and industry and he was one of the honored residents of Clay county. The paternal grandfather of John Palmer was John Palmer, who came to the United States in 1854, engaged in farming in Iowa and there passed away. The maternal grandfather, John Younger, never came to the United States and his demise occurred in Scotland.

John Palmer received some of his education in Scotland and after coming to this country with his parents entered the schools of Illinois. His first occupation on putting his textbooks aside was farming and that line of work he followed until his retirement. He removed to Clay county with his parents and secured a homestead, on which he resided for forty-two years. He passed through all the hardships of those early times but allowed no obstacle to long remain in his path and as the result of that force and determination became one of the leading agriculturists of the county. In 1914 Mr. Palmer removed to Fairfield and with the exception of writing some insurance is living retired.

On the 20th of December, 1883, occurred the marriage of Mr. Palmer and Miss Margaret Black, a native of Ohio and a daughter of James and Margaret Black. Her parents were both natives of Scotland and on coming to this country first located in Ohio and later settled in Iowa, where they resided until death. Six children, five of whom are living, have been born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Palmer; I. R., a graduate of the State University and now teaching school in

Tacoma, Washington; V. O., farmer of Fairfield; Bertha, at home; J. E., engaged in the dray business at Fairfield; and Lula, in her third year in the State University.

Mr. Palmer has always given his allegiance to the republican party, in the interests of which he has taken an active part. For five or six years while residing on his homestead he was county assessor and is now assessor of Fairfield. Mr. Palmer likewise held the office of police judge for some time. The religious faith of the family—with the exception of J. E., who is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church—is that of the Congregational church and Mr. Palmer is the oldest living charter member of that institution, having been a member for forty-eight years. His fraternal affiliations are with the Knights of Pythias and he is a charter member of Fairfield Lodge, No. 156. For two terms he was chancellor commander. When Mr. Palmer first came to Fairfield the town had a population of about twelve people and the houses were sod. He has seen that town and the surrounding vicinity develop into a thickly populated and prosperous community and has been one of the foremost in that development. Since starting out into the world on his own account Mr. Palmer has ever concentrated his efforts and attention upon a single line and this combined with his resolution and energy, accounts for the thoroughness of his work and his steady progress in the agricultural world.

JOSEPH E. SPATZ, M. D.

Since 1885 Dr. Joseph E. Spatz has engaged in the general practice of his profession in Fairfield and has won well merited success and distinction. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1859, a son of William and Phoebe Ann (Bohner) Spatz, both natives of that state. The family is of German descent coming from that country to the United States in 1684 and becoming members of the William Penn colony. The parents of Joseph E. Spatz moved to Illinois in 1869 and resided there until 1886, when they removed to Kansas. The father was a farmer and owned considerable land in both Illinois and Kansas. Eight children were born to that union, seven of whom are living, the subject of this review being the only one residing in Clay county. Throughout their lives Mr. and Mrs. Spatz were consistent members of the Evangelical church and his fraternal affiliation was with the Odd Fellows. He was a stanch supporter of the republican party and for years held various town offices. He was a member of the Home Guard during the Civil war, having been rejected by the regular army. In 1913 the death of Mr. Spatz occurred in Kansas and his widow survived him but three years, passing away in the same state in 1916. Mr. and Mrs. Spatz were honored and respected citizens in the communities in which they resided and in their passing Kansas lost two representative citizens.

Dr. Joseph E. Spatz is indebted to the schools of Illinois for his education and after graduating from the Lanark high school, attended the State University of Iowa. In preparation for a medical career—for he had decided to make the practice of medicine his life work—he entered the Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1885. He located in Fairfield, Nebraska, the same year, opened an office and has continued to practice there. He has an

extensive practice and is recognized throughout the county by other members of his profession as a leading and successful physician. When Dr. Spatz first moved to Fairfield he lectured and taught physiology for several years in the college which was then located in that town.

In 1886, in Fairfield, occurred the marriage of Dr. Spatz and Miss Julia Sherwood, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of Alden G. Sherwood, a homesteader near Sutton. To this union two children have been born: Ward B. and Maurice. Ward B. is now living in Medford, Oregon. Before the war he was in a bank at Fairfield but resigned his position to enlist in the army. He joined the Thirty-sixth United States Regulars as first lieutenant, having received his training at Fort Snelling. He is now engaged in the orchard business, in which line he is achieving more than a substantial amount of success. The youngest son, Maurice, is still in school.

Dr. Spatz is independent in politics and is now president of the State Board of Medical Examiners, holding that office under both republican and democratic administrations for a period of five years. His religious faith is that of the Christian church and he is fraternally identified with the Masons, being a Knight Templar, Shriner and past master. In the civic affairs of Fairfield Dr. Spatz has always taken an active part and for some time has been vice president of the school board. For years he held the position of city physician and in this connection endeared himself to many people throughout the community. In the line of his profession he is identified with the two state medical societies and in order to keep abreast with the trend of modern professional thought and experience and in touch with the latest scientific researches and discoveries, he has taken post-graduate work in Chicago, St. Louis, New York, and Omaha.

WILLIAM A. NALL

William A. Nall is a prominent representative of the agricultural interests of Clay county, his farm being located in section 22, Marshall township. He was born on his father's homestead, his present place of residence, on the 21st of June, 1876, a son of B. F. Nall, Sr., further mention of whom is made on another page of this work.

W. A. Nall received his education in the district schools of Clay county, attended the Normal school in Bushnell, Illinois, and took a law course at Valparaiso, Indiana, receiving his LL. B. degree. He was admitted to the Indiana bar in June, 1903, and the following year to the Nebraska bar. He has never followed his profession, however, but went to farming instead and is recognized as one of the most successful agriculturists in the county.

On the 15th of February, 1905, occurred the marriage of Mr. Nall to Anna L. Shane, a native of Illinois, her birth having occurred near Peoria. She was the daughter of Thomas Shane, who was reared in Illinois and in later life removed to Kansas. He is now residing in Clay Center. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Nall four children have been born, two of whom are living: Russell and Opal, both attending school in Clay Center. One died in infancy and Harold later.

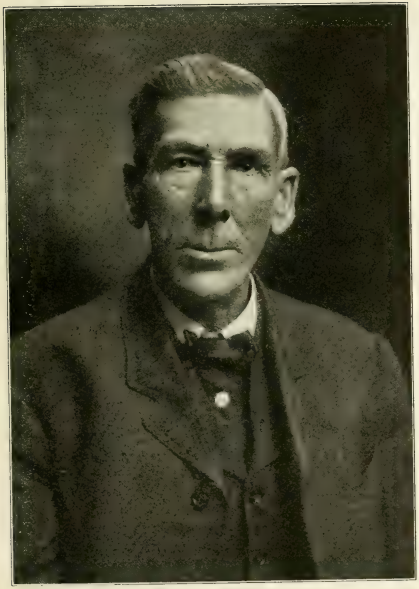
In politics Mr. Nall maintains an independent course, voting for the man without regard for party principles. His religious faith is that of the Evangelical church and fraternally he is a Highlander and an Odd Fellow. For several terms he served as township clerk and ran for county judge and for the legislature, but was defeated. He now devotes his entire time to farming and raises considerable stock. In addition to the land on which he resides, he operates the estate of his father, a three hundred and sixty acre tract. Living in Clay county for the greater part of his life Mr. Nall has seen the work of progress and development carried steadily forward and at all times has borne his part, especially along the line of agricultural development.

DANIEL M. NETTLETON

Since 1904 Daniel M. Nettleton has been living retired in Fairfield. He is well known throughout Clay county as an able agriculturist and has been a member of the state legislature numerous times. He was born in County Antrim, Ireland, November 3, 1840, a son of Benjamin and Maria J. (English) Nettleton. His parents were also natives of County Antrim, but left there in 1844 and came to the United States. They located near Paw Paw, Illinois, and there the father followed the carpenter's trade for a short time, having learned that trade in his native land, where for seven years he served an apprenticeship without remuneration. In his family were eight children, but Daniel M. is the only one now living. Both parents passed away in Illinois, the father in 1854 and the mother in 1895. The father was a very successful man and at the time of his death was financially independent. In Ireland they had attended the Presbyterian church, but as there was no church of that denomination in their community they became consistent members of the Congregational church.

Daniel M. Nettleton received his education in the district schools of Illinois and for a time attended the LaClaire Academy at Paw Paw. After putting his textbooks aside he engaged in farming and followed that occupation until 1861, when he entered the Civil war as a member of Company I, Fourth Illinois Cavalry. He was in active service three years and two months, being discharged after receiving a wound in the hip at the battle of Jordan's Lane, Mississippi. He served on the staff of T. Lyle Dickey and was a non-commissioned officer at the close of the war. He then returned to his home in Illinois, where he remained until he came to Clay county, Nebraska, in March, 1872, and took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres. He resided on that land until 1904, when he disposed of it for a substantial amount and removed to Fairfield.

In 1868 occurred the marriage of Mr. Nettleton and Miss Henrietta M. Davenport, a native of Illinois and a daughter of William Davenport. Her father was well known in the community, where he made his home, being a successful and progressive farmer. In later years he retired from active life and traveled extensively throughout the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Nettleton adopted a daughter, Pearl M., who still lives with Mr. Nettleton. The death of Mrs. Nettleton occurred in 1901 and came as a severe blow to her many friends in the community.



DANIEL M. NETTLETON

Mr. Nettleton has always given his political allegiance to the republican party, having cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln before he was twenty-one years of age. He has ever taken an active part in politics; has served as assessor and at three different times he represented the county in the state legislature. He was first elected in 1883, again in 1907, when he became speaker of the house, and again in 1909. In the latter year he was elected by a small majority, a time when nearly every republican candidate for any office was defeated. During his service in the legislature he fought the railroads and was much elated when in 1907 the issuance of all passes was stopped. As a veteran of the Civil war Mr. Nettleton is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and active in the affairs of the local post.

By his own determination and effort he has reached his present day prosperity and passed through all the hardships of early days, allowing no obstacle, however great, to dampen his spirits and his purpose. He passed through the memorable Easter blizzard of 1873 and the grasshopper plague of 1874, but in the latter year saved his wheat, as he had gotten it stacked just before the grasshoppers came. His homestead consisted of a quarter of a section to which he added by purchase three hundred and twenty acres adjoining and brought the whole tract to a highly cultivated state. Mr. Nettleton is one of Clay county's most honored and respected pioneers and is now enjoying the rest with which his early days of labor have rewarded him.

AUGUST KISSINGER

Years of arduous labor along agricultural and commercial lines have brought August Kissinger a handsome competence. For many years he has been a resident of Hastings and a leading factor in the agricultural and commercial development of the surrounding community. He was born in Washington county, Wisconsin, July 27, 1850, and extended mention of his parents is made in the sketch of P. L. Kissinger, to be found on another page of this work.

August Kissinger was reared on a farm in Wisconsin and received his education in the country schools of the vicinity. He attended school for about three months in the year and the remainder of the time assisted his father on the home place. He left the parental roof at the age of twenty-three years and started farming on his own account, purchasing forty acres which he cultivated for two years. At the end of that time, or in 1878, he came to Nebraska and located near Glenville, Clay county, buying one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land at six dollars per acre. He built a small frame house on the land, hauling the lumber from Glenville, and breaking the land himself soon had it under cultivation. He put up a stable for his stock and set out some orchard and shade trees. The first year forty acres yielded him six hundred and forty bushels of grain, the following year he got only one hundred and forty bushels from one hundred and sixty acres and twelve bushels of corn from forty acres, and in 1893 and 1894 he was completely burned out. During the hailstorms of 1882 he also lost his crops. Some time later he sold that land to his brother Pete and went to Glenville, where he entered the

mercantile business. He bought out an establishment there and with his son, Louis, conducted the A. & L. Kissinger Mercantile Company, general store, for eight years, realizing more than a substantial amount of success in that connection. At the end of that time he sold his business to A. Veith and for two years was in his employ, later resigning that position to accept a like one with Charles Furer at Bruning. For fourteen months he managed the store and then returned to Glenville, where for three years he worked for Dick Heye in a hardware store. The next fifteen months he worked for Charles Furer in a general store at Deweese and then again returned to Glenville, where he engaged in the conduct of a garage. Later he located in Hastings and there was employed in the implement business.

While residing in Wisconsin Mr. Kissinger was united in marriage to Miss Estella E. Cisco, a native of Wisconsin, and her death occurred on the 11th of December, 1912, at the age of sixty-six years. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kissinger: Louis, who conducts a garage in Hastings; Mattie L., the widow of Jacob Hinrichs of Hastings; William Earl, a mail carrier of Glenville; and Helma, residing in Hastings.

Throughout his life Mr. Kissinger has given his support to the republican party, in the interests of which he has taken an active part. He was for many years a member of the school board and also served his fellow citizens as road overseer. His religious faith is that of the Baptist church and fraternally he is a Modern Woodman of America. Mr. Kissinger has been a valuable factor in the development of his section of the country and has ever cooperated in promoting valuable civic measures. He has won the respect of his fellowmen and is numbered among the worthy residents of Hastings.

WILBUR A. LEWIS

Wilbur A. Lewis is proprietor of a garage handling Dodge and Reo cars and an automobile repair shop in Fairfield and is one of the successful and representative business men of that place. He was born in Winchester, Scott county, Illinois, September 28, 1855, a son of Ephraim and Sarah J. (Martin) Lewis, further mention of whom may be found in the sketch of C. L. Lewis appearing on another page of this work.

Wilbur A. Lewis was reared on a farm and received his education in the schools of Scott county. After putting his textbooks aside he engaged in farming with his father and continued in that conection for some time after the removal of the family to Iowa. In 1882, however, he left the parental roof and came to Nebraska, settling in Nuckolls county, where he purchased an eighty acre tract of fine land. For some time he lived on a farm near his land, making his home in a dugout. In 1884 he built his first home on the land and there resided until 1911, when he moved into Fairfield and for some time engaged in the operation of a general store in connection with his brother E. H. At the end of seven years, in 1918, he took over the agency for the Dodge and Reo cars, buying out the business of G. H. Moore, and he has since been active in this line. He has built up a splendid trade and in connection with the garage runs a large repair shop.

In 1879 occurred the marriage of Mr. Lewis and Livonia E. Crawford, a native of Winterset, Iowa, whose parents were among the early pioneers of that state. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis: George L., who is in business with his father; Milton Oliver, who entered service in the World war in 1917 at Kansas City, was at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for the greater part of the time until he was sent abroad in March, 1918, and his death occurred on the 6th of August that year in Alsace-Lorraine; Alta F., who is the wife of John W. McReynolds, insurance agent at Long Pine; Sarah Anne, who is the wife of Clarence Wilson, a railroad man of Fairfield; Wilbur A., Jr., engaged in business with his father; and Howard C., attending school in Fairfield.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Lewis the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party and served on the Clay county board for a period of eight years. He was likewise a member of the city council one term. The religious faith of the family is that of the Congregational church and fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Pythias, which he has served as chancellor commander. He has also taken the grand lodge degree. Through a pleasing personality Mr. Lewis has gained a wide circle of friends, has built up a fine business and at the same time has always proven a most loyal and progressive citizen, who can always be counted upon for cooperation in public affairs of moment.

E. H. BURNHAM

Since the 1st of January, 1921, E. H. Burnham has been active in the office of president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank at Fairfield. Like many other prominent and successful citizens of Clay county he is a son by adoption, his native state being Illinois. He was born in Richview, Illinois, on the 22d of May, 1857. His parents were Dr. William S. and Ann (Rowley) Burnham, the former a native of Vermont, the Green Mountain State, and the latter of Pennsylvania. Their marriage was celebrated in Oak Hill, Illinois. William S. Burnham was a physician of ability and practiced his profession in Richland Center, Wisconsin, until his demise in 1888. His wife also passed away in that state. He was a veteran of the Mexican war and at the close of that conflict removed to Illinois, where he resided for a few years before going to Wisconsin. Three children were born to that union: Ida, who is the wife of O. F. Black, an attorney of Richland Center, Wisconsin; E. H., whose name initiates this review; and Will, a garage proprietor of Denver, Colorado. Throughout his life William S. Burnham was a stanch supporter of the republican party and fraternally he was identified with the Odd Fellows. Mrs. Burnham was a faithful member of the Presbyterian church.

E. H. Burnham is indebted to the schools of Richland Center, Wisconsin, for his education and after graduating from high school engaged in teaching for one year. He then accepted a position as clerk in a dry goods store in which connection he remained for some time but resigned and devoted his time to the study of telegraphy at Sabetha, Kansas. After familiarizing himself with every phase of that work he was employed as agent by the St. Joseph & Grand Island for thirty-five years, coming to Alexandria, Nebraska, in 1880, fifteen years of that time

having been spent in Fairfield. He subsequently retired from that line of business and in 1915 became prominent in the financial circles of Fairfield as vice president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank. For six years he held that office to the complete satisfaction of the many patrons and other officers of the bank and on the 1st of January, 1921, was made president of that institution. The bank has a capital of twenty-five thousand dollars, surplus of five thousand and average deposits of two hundred thousand dollars.

On the 10th of December, 1882, occurred the marriage of Mr. Burnham to Miss Ida M. Church, a native of Troy, New York, whose parents were natives of Vermont and later removed to Nebraska, becoming settlers here in 1879. Both passed away at Alexandria, Nebraska. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Burnham six children have been born: Rowley C., who served in the World war as wireless telegraph operator and is now agent for the Union Pacific at Medicine Bow, Wyoming; Harry, who has been in the employ of the government since the war and is now stationed at Vancouver, Washington, where he is an electric welder in a shipyard; Neta, who is the wife of Arthur Woodhead, an express messenger for the Burlington at Stromsburg; Madge, who is in the State Journal office at Lincoln; Anna, who is in the bank with her father; and Mary, who teaches school at David City.

The political allegiance of Mr. Burnham has ever been given to the republican party, in the interests of which he has taken an active part. For one year he served his fellow citizens as mayor of Fairfield and for nine years has been a member of the school board. His religious faith is that of the Congregational church and he is fraternally identified with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of which he has been a member for forty years. He is now acting as master of Fairfield Lodge, No. 84. Mr. Burnham has risen to his present position of affluence in the community solely as the result of his own determination and industry. He is alert and energetic, is alive to all the vital questions and issues of the day, the business opportunities and the chances for civic development, and his aid and influence may always be counted upon in the furthering of any movement for the progress and development of the community.

LEVI WHITCOMB

Levi Whitcomb, now identified with farming near Springranch, was born in Adams county, Nebraska, January 15, 1874. His parents were Lewis and Emma (Ingram) Whitcomb, the former a native of Wisconsin and the latter of Pennsylvania, and their marriage occurred in Henry county, Illinois. They later removed to Iowa, where the father engaged in farming until 1873 and then removed to Adams county, Nebraska, and took up a homestead of eighty acres. For some time he lived in a dugout and he brought the land to a highly cultivated state, setting out an orchard and making many improvements. Subsequently he purchased a one hundred and sixty acre tract in Adams county and later eighty acres in Clay county. Lewis Whitcomb lived on his farm in Adams county, Nebraska, until his death, which occurred in 1913. His wife passed away in 1904. Four children were born

to that union, two now living: Mabel, who is the widow of William Miller and makes her home in Sheridan, Wyoming; and Levi, whose name initiates this review. Both Mr. and Mrs. Whitcomb were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he followed an independent course in politics.

Levi Whitcomb is indebted to the schools of District No. 20 for his education and after putting his textbooks aside assisted his father on the home place. He started farming on his own account at the age of eighteen years, buying eighty acres of land with the assistance of his father. He later bought an eight acre tract in Clay county, on which he now makes his home. He engages in mixed farming and has made many fine improvements on the place. Since 1903 he has lived on his present farm and in this time has risen to a position of prominence in the community.

In December, 1911, occurred the marriage of Mr. Whitcomb and Miss Julia Swanson, a native of Henry county, Illinois, and a daughter of Samuel and Amanda (Turner) Swanson, both natives of Sweden. Her parents located in Henry county, Illinois, in an early day and subsequently came to eastern Nebraska, locating in Clay county, where they are now residing, prominent and highly respected citizens. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Whitcomb: Gerald, eight years of age; Carl, seven years of age; Merton, five years of age; and Bernice, two years of age.

Along political lines Mr. Whitcomb maintains an independent course. He has served as town clerk but is now devoting his entire time and energy to his agricultural interests. The religious faith of the family is that of the Methodist Episcopal church and they are prominent and consistent members of that organization. Mr. Whitcomb owns his father's one hundred and sixty acres in Adams county and altogether is in possession of three hundred and eighty acres of valuable farm property. Although he had the assistance of his father in early life, his success is the result of his own determined effort. Step by step he has worked his way upward and is now numbered among the prominent farmers of Clay county.

FRANCIS DEE HASTINGS

Since 1885, Francis Dee Hastings has been a resident of Fairfield, Clay county, and has become prominent in the community as a veterinary doctor. He was born at Canton, Illinois, on the 26th of October, 1857, a son of William and Catherine (Heckerd) Hastings, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of Ohio. Their marriage occurred in Illinois, where both had gone as young people. William Hastings followed farming in Illinois and resided in that state until his death. Three children were born to that union: Francis Dee being the oldest in the family and the only one living. Mr. and Mrs. Hastings were consistent members of the Dutch Reformed church.

Francis Dee Hastings secured his education in the schools of Illinois and engaged with his father in farming in that state for some time. He then left the parental roof and went to Iowa, where he followed farming and in 1883 came to Nebraska and located in Clay county. For one year after his arrival in Clay

county he worked on a farm and then began to practice veterinary surgery. He has been active in that practice since 1885 and although he never made a special study of it has proven his ability in that connection. In addition to his practice Mr. Hastings keeps a number of breeding horses.

In 1894 occurred the marriage of Mr. Hastings to Miss Ollie Harris, a native of Ohio, and to them two children were born: Russell, who is with Armour & Company in Omaha; and Howard, in business with his father. The death of Mrs. Hastings occurred on the 17th of May, 1918, and on the 14th of January, 1921, Mr. Hastings was again wed, choosing Florence L. Bayly Hyde as his second wife. She is a native of Illinois and a daughter of H. H. Hyde, a pioneer of Fairfield. Mrs. Hastings is prominent in the social affairs of Fairfield and in church circles, being a consistent member of the Congregational church.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Hastings the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party and the principles for which it stands. For six years he served his fellow citizens as alderman. The greater portion of Mr. Hastings' time has been devoted to his practice, although he is appreciative of the social amenities of life and is a member of the Knights of Pythias. His ability as a veterinary doctor has spread far and wide and he has an extensive and lucrative practice in the southern part of Clay county, the northern part of Nuckolls county and in Adams and Webster counties. During his thirty-six years' residence in Fairfield Mr. Hastings has made many friends who appreciate his true personal worth and he is readily conceded by all to be a representative citizen.

GEORGE F. OVERTURF

An excellent farm property located in section 22, Sheridan township, Clay county, pays tribute to the care and labor bestowed upon it by G. F. Overturf, recognized as one of the representative agriculturists of his section of the state. He was born in Davis county, Iowa, on the 24th of March, 1849, a son of John M. and Catherine (Shadley) Overturf, both natives of Ohio. The father engaged in farming in Ohio until he removed to Iowa in 1848, making the trip overland. He purchased land in that state, a timber tract, which he had to clear, and he resided on it in a log house at first, later building a frame house which is still standing. In 1877 he located in Nebraska, buying one hundred and sixty acres of land, partly improved, and there engaged in general farming until he sold his land and went to Kansas. He met his death while residing in that state, being killed by lightning. He was eighty-one years of age at the time of his demise. The mother passed away in her sixtieth year. They were both members of the new school Methodist church.

G. F. Overturf received his education in the country schools of Iowa and walked a mile and a quarter to the little log schoolhouse which he attended three or four months of the year. He remained with his parents on the home farm until he became of age. In 1870 he was married and two years later came to Clay county, driving through in three weeks with a team and wagon. He crossed the Missouri river at White Cloud, Nebraska, on a ferry boat. With him he brought one cow

and his household goods. Mr. Overturf secured a homestead of eighty acres in Logan township, on the outskirts of the present town of Ong, and his first home was of sod with one room and board floor, the timber for which he hauled from Carleton. He lived in that house one year and then built a larger sod house and also a barn. He likewise bored a well on the place. He proved up on the land, which he later sold, and purchased a one hundred and sixty acre tree claim in Sheridan township, on which he now resides. During the grasshopper storm of 1874 Mr. Overturf suffered severe loss. He had one and one-half acres planted in onions and these the grasshoppers ate, leaving nothing but holes in the ground. During the Easter blizzard of 1873 he was snowed in several days and stayed most of the time with his live stock in the barn for three days and nights. Hunting was both a pleasure and necessity in those early days and game was plentiful. Many Indians passed through the homestead on their spring and fall hunting trips.

In 1870 Mr. Overturf was united in marriage to Miss Elnora Ranes, a native of Iowa, and to them eight children have been born: Amanda, the wife of Sam Baker of Custer county, where he is engaged in farming; Stormy L., a farmer of Clay county; Gourley, farming in Clay county; John, who is farming the old home place; Julia, the wife of Murray McLaughlin, a farmer of Basin, Wyoming; Forest, at home; and two other children who passed away in infancy.

Throughout his life Mr. Overturf has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party, having firm belief in the efficacy of the principles of that party as factors in good government. He has always been a stanch advocate of education and was one of the organizers of school district number 62 and for many years served as a member of the board. Since adult age Mr. Overturf has been engaged in farming on his own account and there are few experiences of pioneer life with which he is not familiar. He is one of the substantial agriculturists of Clay county and has contributed much to the growth and development of the county. He is progressive and liberal in his ideas, upright in every word and deed and a man of rugged honesty.

JEROME C. NISELY

Since 1885 J. E. Nisely has made his home in Clay county, where he is the owner of an excellent farm property and is classed with the most enterprising and prosperous farmers of that county. He, like many other prominent men of Clay county, is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Warren county, that state, on the 20th of December, 1858, a son of G. W. and Sarah Ann (Mabry) Nisely, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Pennsylvania. Some time after their marriage, which occurred in Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. Nisely removed to Illinois, where the mother passed away. The death of the father occurred at the home of our subject in Clay county. Ten children were born to that union, nine of whom are living. J. C., whose name initiates this review was the fourth in order of birth. They were consistent members of the Christian church and the father always gave his support to the democratic party. He followed farming throughout his life and owned two hundred and ten acres of valuable land in Illinois. The Nisely

family are Dutch descent, the grandfather of J. C., Jacob, having been born in Holland.

The country schools of Illinois afforded J. E. Nisely an education and after putting his textbooks aside he started farming. For nine years he worked out on various farms and then, leaving his native state, came to Nebraska and located in Clay county in 1885. He bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, to which he moved the following year, and he now owns four hundred acres of valuable farm property in the county. At the time he bought the place there was only a small house and stable on the land but he set about to improve it and today a fine modern residence and the most up-to-date improvements make the farm an attractive place in the vicinity.

On November 13, 1884, Mr. Nisely was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Ditch, a native of Illinois, in which state their marriage occurred. Her parents were Henry and Harriett (Bair) Ditch, who came to Clay county at an early day. Her father bought a farm with Mr. Nisely, which he conducted until the time of his death. Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Nisely: Nelle and Harry, at home; Fay, who is the wife of Ralph Sconce of Edgar; Ernest, Margaret, Murray, all at home; John, a farmer of Clay county; and Mildred and Irene, in school.

Mr. Nisely gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, having firm belief in the efficacy of the principles of that party as factors in good government. His religious faith is that of the Christian church, to which his wife also belongs, and fraternally he is identified with the Odd Fellows. He has always been a stanch advocate of education and to that end served on the school board for many years. He engages in mixed farming and raises some cattle. Mr. Nisely has thoroughly identified his interests with those of his community and can be counted upon to do his part in furthering the public welfare.

THOMAS TALICH

Thomas Talich is a representative of one of the old pioneer families of Nebraska long resident in this state and he now makes his home just outside the village limits of Giltner. He was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, September 25, 1855, and is a son of John and Mary Talich. His youthful days were spent on the home farm in his native state and he pursued his education in the country schools near his father's place, attending for about three months during the winter seasons and walking three miles to pursue his studies in a little log schoolhouse, sitting upon a bench made of a hewed log. The methods of instruction, too, were quite primitive, but in the school of experience he has learned many valuable lessons. When fifteen years of age he began working in the timber, cutting rails and doing other such tasks. The year 1876 witnessed his arrival in Nebraska, at which time he was a young man of twenty-one years. He drove across the country with a team of horses and covered wagon and was six weeks making the trip, crossing the Missouri river at Plattsmouth on the ferry. In the meantime his father had purchased a half section here for four dollars per acre and Thomas Talich obtained one hundred and sixty acres of the tract.



THOMAS TALICH AND FAMILY

He built thereon a one-room sod house with a dirt floor and dirt roof and also put up a sod barn. Moreover, he had a well bored on his place and obtained fuel from the Blue river and the Platte river, also burning corn and cornstalks. Many difficulties and obstacles incident to pioneer life confronted him, but he possessed determination and energy and never allowed the disadvantages to loom too large on his horizon. After a time he gained a good start and traded land with his father, building thereon a frame house, always living, however, in Hamilton precinct. At length he sold his quarter section and bought two hundred and forty acres in the same precinct, adding thereto many modern improvements and placing his land under a high state of cultivation. He did most of his trading at Harvard and at times has hauled wheat to Hastings, taking two days to make the trip. In 1894 he raised no crops on account of the severe drought. He broke most of the land on his first place and after that time was continuously, actively and successfully engaged in farming for an extended period, but retired in 1912 and removed to Giltner, taking up his residence on a part of his wife's mother's old homestead just on the outskirts of Giltner, where he is now enjoying life.

Mr. Talich was married to Miss Margaret E. Thompson, daughter of David and Mary Thompson. Mrs. Thompson took up a homestead near what is now Giltner, and they have become parents of seven children: John A., living in Garden county, Nebraska; Robert E., a farmer of Hamilton county; Thomas C., who cultivates the home place; Henry F., also on the old home farm; Mary E., the wife of Clayton Ellison, a farmer of Hamilton county; Helen M., who is employed in the Citizens Bank in Giltner; and Ella M., the wife of Murlin Brock.

Mr. Talich served as school director for a number of years in district 71 and also filled the position of precinct assessor for five years. He has likewise been a member of the school board of Giltner and is always keenly interested in everything that pertains to intellectual progress and improvement. He has become a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator at Giltner and to this business gives some attention, but otherwise is living retired. He has always been an independent voter and his religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church, of which his wife and daughters are also members. His long residence in the county, covering forty-five years, marks him as one of its pioneer settlers, and those who are familiar with his life record throughout this entire period bear testimony to the fact that he is a man worthy of high regard and one who in every relation of life has held to high standards of manhood and citizenship.

DON A. KEENEY

Don A. Keeney, now living retired in Fairfield, has been a resident of Clay county for fifty years. He has witnessed the growth and development of the county, in which he has taken an active part, and he has many friends in the community who appreciate his true personal worth and many sterling traits of character.

Don A. Keeney is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Chicago on

the 13th of July, 1844, a son of Henry B. and Mary (Munson) Keeney, the former a native of Hartford and the latter of Stonington, Connecticut. Their marriage was celebrated at Hartford and soon afterward they removed to Chicago, when that city was but a small town. Mr. Keeney resided there for a short time, helping to build the docks, and then moved to Elgin, where he purchased government land, on which he resided for some time. After disposing of this land he bought another tract in McHenry county and there Mr. and Mrs. Keeney resided until death. Nine children were born to their union, four of whom are now living: Mrs. Martha M. Gillette, who is a widow, living at Deweese; Edward H., residing near Red Cloud; Mary, who is the wife of John R. Buck, an attorney of Hartford, Connecticut; and D. A., whose name initiates this review. The mother was a strict Presbyterian and Mr. Keeney gave his political allegiance first to the whig and later the republican party. He made a success in life and was a man above the average in intelligence, having a keen mind which he continually improved with good literature. The grandfather, Henry B. Keeney, was a native of England.

In the acquirement of an education D. A. Keeney attended the schools of Illinois in the vicinity of his father's farm and after putting his textbooks aside helped his father. In December, 1863, he volunteered his services and joined Company K, Seventeenth Illinois Cavalry, with which he served two years. He helped drive Price out of Missouri and participated in many of the important battles of the Civil war. At the close of the conflict he returned to his home in Illinois and there remained until May, 1871, when he came to Nebraska and located in Clay county. He homesteaded on section 20, Fairfield township, and resided there until 1884. His first home on this land was a log house, sixteen by eighteen feet, and he lived in it for some years, subsequently building a frame house. In the memorable Easter storm of 1873 Mr. Keeney lost three cows which were drowned in the Blue river and he also suffered loss during the grasshopper storms. The vicinity in which he located was very sparsely settled, there being but five settlers in the community. On his way to this county, the trip being made overland with wagons, Mr. Keeney stopped off in Iowa for a year, where he engaged in farming. In 1884 he moved off of the homestead and into Deweese, where for two years he took over the management of the Chicago Lumber Company. Subsequently he moved into Fairfield, where he bought stock and sold implements for an additional two years, at the termination of which time he again returned to his homestead. He did not long remain there, however, but moved again to Deweese and subsequently to Fairfield on the 10th of March, 1920. He has a fine modern home there and is residing retired, an honored and respected citizen.

On the 28th of September, 1872, occurred the marriage of Mr. Keeney to Miss Addie T. Marvin, a native of New York state and a daughter of George T. Marvin, an early settler of Illinois who later removed to Iowa, where his death occurred. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Keeney: Mary Ellen, the wife of Dr. Jester of Doniphan; Laura Arrah Oldham, a resident of Deweese; Ernest L., engaged in farming in Clay county; Edward F., an auto painter of Hastings; Nettie Brower, who is married and lives near Deweese, where her husband engages in farming; Arthur, a flour mill worker in Deweese; Kate, the wife of Mr. Harnie Trobaugh, a farmer of Clay county; and Albert, a ranchman of Idaho.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Keeney the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the republican party, in the interests of which he has taken an active part. For thirteen years he has been assessor and is now the assessor of the east ward. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church of which his wife is also a member, and fraternally he is identified with the Woodmen and the Grand Army of the Republic. The success achieved by Mr. Keeney shows what can be accomplished by ability, determination and energy. He has been a witness of the growth and development of this section of the state and has borne his part in the work of general progress and improvement, being classed with the substantial and representative citizens of Fairfield.

NATHANIEL GRAHAM

Nathaniel Graham is numbered among the pioneers of Clay county, having located there in 1872. He has a splendid farm in section 14, Lone Tree township, that is highly productive and he is readily conceded one of the representative agriculturists of his section of the state. He was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, March 8, 1843, a son of Nathaniel and Mary Graham. His parents were prominent citizens of their community and the father followed farming in Ohio throughout his life.

Nathaniel Graham was reared on his father's farm and attended country school, walking one and one-half miles to a little log school house. After putting his textbooks aside he remained on the home farm with his father and worked out by the day, receiving a daily wage of fifty cents for his labors. In 1861, at Lincoln's first call for volunteers to defend the union, Mr. Graham enlisted in Company A, Twenty-seventh Volunteer Infantry, being mustered into service at Camp Chase, Ohio. He served under Sherman and Grant, being a member of the western army, and his first skirmish occurred on the Tennessee at Pittsburg Landing. He was likewise engaged in the battle of Memphis and was with Sherman on his famous march to the sea. He was present at the burning of Atlanta and received a flesh wound while participating in a skirmish just outside of that city. His knapsack was shot off his back and it was a miracle that he was not more seriously wounded. He served until the close of the war and participated in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C. After receiving his discharge he returned to Ohio and worked with his father on the farm. In 1855 his mother died. In 1866 he went to Illinois by wagon, making the trip behind a horse team. He farmed there for a while, but located in Clay county, Nebraska, in 1872. His two brothers, Ben and Sam accompanied him. Mr. Graham acquired a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, his first home on the land being the primitive dugout, part sod. He broke his own land and after three years bought a small shanty, which he moved onto his place and in which he lived three years. He subsequently erected a frame house and some outbuildings. Mr. Graham took his grist to the mill at Crete and had his corn ground at a mill on the Blue river. He improved the appearance of his farm by planting shade trees and an orchard. During the Easter blizzard of 1873, starting April 13 and lasting three days, Mr. Graham suffered some loss. He

had one pig that was snowed under for a couple of weeks and his brother Ben lost a horse. Antelopes were numerous in the vicinity of the homestead and he participated in a buffalo hunt in which he succeeded in killing one of the animals. Indians were frequent visitors to the farm, passing through on their spring and fall hunting trips and begging for food and warmth. The hospitality awaiting the tired traveler at home of Mr. Graham spread far and wide. He has resided on this land continuously, having been off of it at the longest time but five weeks when he was away on a visit. He has been a dominant factor in the development and improvement of the community, helped organize school district 40, and has always been a stanch advocate of education.

In 1875 occurred the marriage of Mr. Graham and Miss Caroline Croft, a native of Iowa, who came to Clay county with her parents in 1874. She was a daughter of John Croft, who drove through to Clay county, having traded a sawmill in Iowa for land in Clay county. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Graham: Samuel, whose death occurred at the age of twenty years; John, who passed away when twenty-five years of age; Jacob, who lives with parents; Mary, at home; Lottie, whose death occurred at the age of five months; and Benjamin, a farmer and stockman of Stratton. Jacob Graham enlisted for service in the World war at Hastings and was sent to Fort Logan, Colorado, for training. He was also stationed for a short time at Camp Humphrey and Camp Merritt, New Jersey, and then went overseas, where he remained for nine months. He was stationed with the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Engineers, with whom he served until receiving his discharge on the 18th of July, 1919, at Camp Dodge, Iowa.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Graham the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. His religious faith is that of the Christian church, attending that organization at Clay Center, and fraternally he is identified with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is likewise a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and in the activities of the local chapter in past years took a prominent part. Mr. Graham has thoroughly identified his interests with those of his community and can be counted upon to do his part in furthering the public welfare.

CHARLES J. HARRIS

Charles J. Harris is active in the business circles of Fairfield as manager of the Farmers Union Cooperation Association and owner of a moving picture show, having been successful in the conduct of the latter business for eleven years. He is a native of Nebraska, his birth having occurred in Nuckolls county, August 16, 1873, and he has the distinction of being the first white man born in that county. His parents were Alfred and Elizabeth (Jacobs) Harris, the former still living and making his home in California. Alfred Harris is a native of England but came to the United States in an early day and located in Wisconsin, where his marriage occurred. In 1870 he and his wife removed to Nuckolls county and there homesteaded, living on that land until 1897, when they moved into University Place.

The mother is now deceased. Alfred Harris was later married the second time. To the first union two children were born: C. J., whose name initiates this review; and Minnie, the wife of J. C. Wetzel, a farmer of Burlington, Washington. Three children have been born to the second union: Buelah, who is the wife of Ed. Blodgett, engaged in the automobile business at Fairview, Missouri; Paul, who lives on a homestead in Wyoming; and Fannie, who is residing with her parents in California. Mr. Harris was formerly a member of the Methodist Episcopal church but is now a Christian Scientist and he is a stanch prohibitionist.

In the acquirement of an education C. J. Harris attended the schools of Nuckolls county and Nelson high school and lived with his parents on the home farm until he was twenty-two years of age. At that time he left the parental roof and went to Clay Center, where he engaged in the restaurant business with a great amount of success from 1899 to 1901. For the next three and one-half years he was in the drug business at Fairfield and then traveled on the road for the Omaha Grain Exchange for a period of two years. In 1919 he went to Fairfield as manager of the Farmers Union Cooperation Association and has since continued in that connection. Mr. Harris also owns and runs a moving picture show there, which business he has successfully conducted for a period of eleven years. His show house is up-to-date and modern in every respect and he exhibits only the best pictures.

In 1900 occurred the marriage of Mr. Harris and Margaret Deines, a daughter of John Deines, a pioneer of Clay county. To them six children have been born: Maude, who is teaching in the schools of Arcadia; Marie, in her last year in the Fairfield high school; Margaret and Virginia, both in schools; Mildred, the third child, died aged one and one-half years; Audrey, the fourth child, died aged seven years.

Mr. Harris has ever given his political allegiance to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. For some time he served on the city council and was township clerk for a number of years. His religious faith is that of the Congregational church and fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen. Mr. Harris now owns land only in Florida. As a man of genial nature he has many friends who appreciate his true personal worth. He cooperates heartily in every movement calculated to benefit the district in which he lives and has made steady progress in his business affairs, being today classed with the representative and valued citizens of his county.

WILLIAM WAKELIN

Since 1913 William Wakelin, a well known figure in the agricultural circles of Clay county, has lived retired in Fairfield. He has been a resident of Clay county since he was seventeen years of age and has many friends who with interest have watched him advance steadily to his present success. He was born in Newaygo, Michigan, January 15, 1863, a son of James and Rosamond (Heaton) Wakelin, both natives of England. They came to the United States as young people and were married here. Soon afterward they moved to a farm in Michigan and later removed

to Muskegon, where James Wakelin worked in the lumber mills. The death of Mrs. Wakelin occurred in Michigan and in 1879 the father came to Nebraska and located in Clay county, where he bought land and on which he resided until his death. Four children were born to that union, three of whom are living: Mary, who is the wife of W. A. Grimes, in the Journal office at Lincoln; William, whose name initiates this review; and Richard, traveling for a Seattle firm. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wakelin were consistent members of the Congregational church and he was a stanch supporter of the democratic party.

William Wakelin acquired his education in the schools of Muskegon and worked on the river with his father until he was seventeen years of age, at which time he came to Clay county and engaged in farming, later purchasing four hundred and forty acres on his own account. He brought the land to a highly cultivated state and soon became known as a leading and influential farmer. In 1913 Mr. Wakelin decided to retire from active life and rented his land and removed to Fairfield, where he is now residing, a prominent and respected citizen.

In 1889 Mr. Wakelin was married to Jeanette McFarland, a native of Canada and daughter of Archibald and Margaret (Kilgore) McFarland, the former a native of near Glasgow, Scotland, and the latter born near Brownsville, Canada. In 1885 they removed to the United States and there the mother's death occurred. Mr. McFarland was making his home in Jefferson county with a daughter at the time of his death. Seven children were born to that union, of whom Mrs. Wakelin was the eldest. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Wakelin one son, Leslie, was born. He resides on his father's farm, is married and has three children: Robert, Mildred, and Maxine. Mr. and Mrs. Wakelin also have an adopted daughter, Irene, who is the wife of Mather Schifferns.

The political allegiance of Mr. Wakelin is given to the democratic party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. Both he and his wife are consistent members of the Congregational church and active in all of its affairs. Mrs. Wakelin is a member of the Clover Club. The success which Mr. Wakelin now enjoys is the result of his own determined effort and he is readily conceded to be a representative citizen of Fairfield.

PETER T. KRINTZFIELD

The hope that led Peter T. Krintzfield to leave his native land and seek a home in America has been more than realized. He found the opportunities he sought—which, by the way, are always open to the ambitions, energetic man—and making the best of these he has steadily worked his way upward until his name is now enrolled among the best citizens of Clay county.

Peter T. Krintzfield was born in Germany on the 4th of December, 1839, and at an early age was left an orphan. He was reared on a farm in his native land and there remained until he was sixteen years of age, when he sought the freedom and opportunities of a growing country and came to the United States. He made the voyage on an old sailing vessel and was two months in crossing. After landing in New York he went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where for some time he was employed

in a starch factory, driving a team at the wages of ten dollars per month. He then engaged in construction work on a railroad and for some time farmed near Madison, Wisconsin. On going to Flat Rock, Michigan, he secured work in a timber camp and remained in that connection for a short time before removing to Illinois, where he again engaged in farming. He started in on his own account on some rented land in DeKalb county and subsequently purchased eighty acres which he cultivated until 1885 and then came to Nebraska. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of school land near Fairfield, for which he paid twenty-five hundred dollars, the only improvements on the land being a sod house and frame stable. He broke his land, erected more modern improvements and added to it from time to time until he had a tract of six hundred and eighty acres, highly cultivated and improved, with three sets of buildings. He has always engaged in general farming and has won more than a substantial amount of success along that line. Mr. Krintzfield is a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry in 1862. He was mustered into service at Sycamore and served until the close of the conflict, participating in the battles of Atlanta, Resaca, New Hope church and Marietta. He received a flesh wound in the neck at Resaca. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea and was also in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C.

While farming in Illinois Mr. Krintzfield was united in marriage to Miss Adelia Chambers, a native of New York and a daughter of Moses Chambers. Three children have been born to their union: Ada, who is the wife of Taylor Woods, a farmer in Clay county; Ernest, a farmer of Clay county; and Paul, also farming in Clay county.

Mr. Krintzfield gives his political allegiance to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. He is a member of the G. A. R. Post at Fairfield; also a member of the Grangers. At an early age Mr. Krintzfield was thrown upon his own resources and his present success is the result of his own determined effort. He is rightly entitled to the proud American title of self-made man. His life is exemplary in all respects and he has ever supporter those interests which are calculated to uplift and benefit humanity, while his own high moral worth is deserving of the highest commendation.

A. J. ORENDORFF

For some years A. J. Orendorff, who is now residing in Wilson county, Kansas, was prominent in the agricultural circles of Clay county, owning property in section 17, Springranche. He was born in Bloomington, McLean county, Illinois, on the 2d of June, 1849.

A. J. Orendorff is indebted to the schools of Illinois for his education and after completing his preliminary training entered Wesleyan College in Bloomington, where he completed the course in the required time. After putting his textbooks aside he started farming in Illinois, remaining in that state until 1875 when he came to Nebraska and located in Adams county. He acquired two hundred and forty acres of deeded land, two miles south of Hastings, whereon he built a three-

room frame house and frame stable, set out forest trees and a small orchard and until 1882 resided on that land. He then rented land in Clay county for a year, and later traded his land for one hundred and sixty acres in Springranche township and moved there. An old log house was then standing on the farm, where it still remains, in a well preserved state. In November, 1895, he removed to Wilson county, Kansas, where he is now residing, a prominent and highly respected citizen. For four years he served as county commissioner of Wilson county, being a member of the board that was instrumental in graveling the state roads.

In 1872 Mr. Orendorff was united in marriage to Miss Mattie F. Rhodes, a native of Illinois and to them three children have been born: Guy A.; Arthur D. of Rest, Kansas; and A. Lester, who resides with his father. The eldest son, Guy A., was born near Bloomington, Illinois, August 9, 1873, and was taken by his parents to Adams county, Nebraska, at the age of eighteen months. He received his education in the schools of Clay county, walking one and a quarter miles to the frame schoolhouse, and at the age of twenty-five years started farming on his own account on the home place and subsequently purchased one hundred and forty-two acres. He does general farming and stock raising and is a leading agriculturist in the county. He was married in 1898 to Miss Ima L. Stratton, a native of Minnesota, and one child, Alton, who is attending high school in Fairfield has been born to them. Guy Orendorff is a stanch supporter of the democratic party and the religious faith of both himself and wife is that if the Methodist Episcopal church, and they attend the organization in Springranch. For two terms he served his fellow citizens as township clerk and also as justice of the peace and he has an interest in the Farmers Cooperative Grain & Supply Companies of Fairfield and Springranch. He was a dominant factor in the organization of the Blue Valley State Bank of Springranch and is still active in financial circles there. He is a prominent citizen, having many friends who appreciate his true personal worth and many sterling traits of character.

A. J. Orendorff gives his endorsement to the democratic party and is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is fraternally affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. Although A. J. Orendorff is now making his home in another county and state his many friends in Clay county cannot forget him, for he played a prominent part in its development and improvement and was one of its most progressive and representative citizens.

EMIL PEARSON

Emil Pearson, living on section 19, Scoville township, Hamilton county, not far from Trumbull, Nebraska, was born in Sweden, September 28, 1863, and his youthful days were spent on a farm in that country, while his education was acquired in the common schools. After his textbooks were put aside, he was employed at farm labor in Sweden until 1882, when he determined to try his fortune in America and crossed the Atlantic. He first took up his abode near Springfield, Illinois, and there worked as a farm hand at twenty dollars per month. At length he removed to Hall county, Nebraska, where he settled



MR. AND MRS. EMIL PEARSON

in 1884, and again was employed as a farm hand for two years. During that period he carefully saved his earnings and at length was able to purchase eighty acres of deeded land. He continued to work out and as opportunity offered, carried on the task of improving and developing his farm. He had a small frame house and a little stable on his land and also a well, from which he drew water with a bucket. He broke part of his land and continued to cultivate the entire tract, transforming the place into rich and productive fields. He has since added to his original holdings until he now owns two hundred acres, constituting a valuable property. He built a large brick house on the place, has added many modern improvements and has put everything into splendid condition, so that his farm is today one of the model properties of Hamilton county in the twentieth century. Not all days have been equally bright, however, for at times he has confronted difficulties and obstacles. This was especially true when in 1894 his entire crop was destroyed by drought. However, he has always made the best of his chances and, having set out fruit trees, is now in possession of a fine orchard. He has always carried on general farming and the raising and feeding of hogs and both branches of his business have proven profitable sources of income.

Mr. Pearson was united in marriage to Miss Mary Gunggren, with whom he was acquainted in Sweden. They have become the parents of six children: Elmer, who is with the Pathe motion pictures as a director of films in the office at New York city; Charles, who is a farmer living in Custer county, Nebraska; Mabel, who is teaching school; Esther, who died at the age of sixteen years; Roy, at home; and May, who is attending high school at Trumbull.

Mr. Pearson has always been interested in educational progress, has given his children good advantages in that direction and has served on the school board. He and his wife and family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church of Trumbull and he has filled the office of steward. He is likewise connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and with the Royal Highlanders since 1896. He served on the board of managers and has filled various offices in that lodge. He is an independent voter and in politics has always preferred to support those interests which his judgment deems of public value rather than to ally himself with any party. Mr. Pearson has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he has found the opportunities which he sought and by reason of his diligence and perseverance, which at all times have been wisely guided, he has reached a place among the substantial farmers and citizens of Hamilton county.

JAMES R. BELL, M. D.

Dr. James R. Bell of Fairfield, Nebraska, devoting his attention to medicine and surgery, in which fields his ability is pronounced, was born in Darlington, England, on the 28th of April, 1872, a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Coats) Bell, both natives of England, in which country the death of the latter occurred in 1874. In 1881 the father came to the United States and located in Iowa, where

he followed the stone mason's trade. When he first arrived in Hamilton county, that state, he had with him a family of eight children and finances amounting to but eight dollars. He soon, however, achieved a great amount of success in the line of his chosen work and purchased some fine land in the county. His farm was recently purchased by his youngest son for three hundred and fifty dollars an acre. Mr. Bell made Iowa his home until his death in 1908 and for many years previous to that event had been financially independent. He was twice married, his first wife being Elizabeth Coats, by whom he had two children: Mrs. Charles Butler of Blue Earth, Minnesota, her husband being a retired farmer; and Dr. James R., whose name initiates this review. His second marriage was to a widow having two children by a former marriage and they had six children: Mrs. Alice Brogan of Webster City, Iowa; Elizabeth, who is married and lives at Eagle Grove Iowa; Margaret and Ada, principals of schools in Webster City, Iowa; John, a prosperous and well known farmer of Iowa; and Joseph, who recently bought and resides on the homestead of his father. Throughout his life Mr. Bell was a stanch democrat and his religious faith was that of the Methodist church.

James R. Bell is indebted to the schools of Webster City, Iowa, for his early education. In due time he entered the Ellsworth College at Iowa Falls and on completing his course there and deciding upon a medical career, he entered the Ensworth Medical College at St. Joseph, from which institution he received his M. D. degree in 1907. He began the practice of his profession at Stratton, Nebraska, where he remained for three and one-half years, at the end of which time he removed to Trenton and there continued in practice for a like number of years. In 1914 Dr. Bell located in Fairfield, where he bought out the practice of Dr. Adam R. Ray, a pioneer of Fairfield who had practiced there for twenty-six years. Dr. Bell has an extensive practice and his thorough knowledge of and ability in his chosen work is indisputable.

In 1898 Dr. Bell was united in marriage to Miss Mabel M. Graham, a native of Dallas county, Iowa, and a daughter of John Graham, a pioneer farmer of that county. To Dr. and Mrs. Bell two sons have been born: Leon R., who is principal of the school at Wynot, and a graduate of the State University; and Forrest E., attending high school.

Dr. Bell gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He was recently elected mayor of Fairfield. His religious faith is that of the Christian church and fraternally he is identified with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and the Consistory, and belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows. Although Dr. Bell's practice is mostly general he does some X-Ray work and in connection with his profession is a member of the County and State Medical Societies, the American Medical Association, and the Republican Valley Medical Association. For some time he served the county society as president and while a resident of Stratton and Trenton was secretary of four counties. Dr. Bell has ever been a close student of his profession, always keeping in touch with the trend of modern research and scientific investigation and for five weeks took a post-graduate course in a Chicago medical school. He has risen to his present success solely through his own efforts and is justly entitled to the proud American title of self-made man. He has bent every energy to the mastery of the principles of medicine and surgery and is now regarded

as a leading representative of his profession in Clay county. Aside from his professional interests Dr. Bell is interested in the development of Clay county along agricultural lines as the owner of some fine land in this county and also in Colorado.

HENRY W. VICKERS

Since 1911 Henry W. Vickers has resided in Ong, Nebraska, where he is known and esteemed as a progressive agriculturist and business man. He was born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, March 21, 1861, a son of John and Zilpha (Palmer) Vickers. The father was a well known stockman who located in Nemaha county, Nebraska, in 1871, coming there by train. In 1879 he removed to Jefferson county, where he purchased eighty acres of fine land and in connection with general farming raised live stock and butchered. He passed away in that county at the age of sixty-five years, his death leaving a void in the community not easily filled. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Vickers: Thomas, who was born in England and is now engaged in the nursery business at Fairbury; Mary, the widow of William Boddye; Myria, deceased; Susan, the wife of Stephen Wookey of Fairbury; Henry W., whose name initiates this review; George, engaged in the implement business in Canada; Sylvia, the wife of Sam McNish of Fairbury; and Ernest and Jennie, deceased. Mr. Vickers was a democrat and reared his family in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The country schools of Nemaha county afforded to Henry W. Vickers his educational training and he started working out on farms when seventeen years of age, drawing wages of from eight to ten dollars per month. He was ambitious to start farming on his own account and as a result "bached" on some rented land until he went with his father to Johnson county and subsequently came to Clay county in 1881. Buying eighty acres, he improved it and brought it to a highly cultivated state, from time to time adding additional land, until he was in possession of one and one-half sections of valuable farm property. He put up a set of improvements on each quarter and followed general farming and stock raising until 1911, when he decided to retire from active farm life. He removed to Ong, where he now resides, and for some time engaged in buying live stock. He built the first garage in Ong, from the sale of which he realized a substantial sum.

In Nemaha county, in 1884, occurred the marriage of Mr. Vickers and Miss Amelia A. Loveless, a native of that county and a daughter of Joseph and Jane (Payne) Loveless, natives of England who came to the United States in 1855. They were eight weeks and three days in crossing and on arriving in this country first located at Kankakee Illinois, from which town they later removed to Leavenworth, Kansas. They were compelled to leave their home in that state upon the outbreak of the Civil war and fled west, arriving in Brownville, Nebraska, in 1856. For some time her father worked out on farms and then preempted one hundred and sixty acres west of Brownville. In 1860 he went to Colorado, where he prospected for three years, making that trip overland behind three yoke of oxen. It took him exactly one month to go from Brownville to Denver. In 1865 he returned to Brownville by way of steamboat from Omaha and there purchased a fruit

farm, which he conducted until his death in 1886 at the age of sixty-four years. His wife passed away in 1899 at the age of eighty years. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Vickers five children were born: Amy, who is the wife of Gourley Overturf, engaged in farming in Clay county; Richard, a farmer of Clay county; Rose, who is the wife of Doris Davidson, a farmer of Clay county; Frank, engaged in farming in Clay county; and Annabelle, deceased.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Vickers the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party, having firm belief in the efficacy of the principles of that party as factors in good government. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church and fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America. Now living retired in Ong, Mr. Vickers is enjoying all of the comforts and many luxuries of life as the result of his well directed thrift and energy in former years.

GEORGE E. GLASS

George E. Glass, living retired in Fairfield, was born in Oldham county, Kentucky, on the 10th of August, 1840, a son of William and Emily (McCoy) Glass, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Madison, Indiana. Their marriage was celebrated in Kentucky. William Glass was a cooper by trade but devoted most of his time to farming and in 1870 went to Missouri, then to Iowa, and finally came to Nebraska, locating in Saline county, where he secured a homestead and there resided for a number of years. He then removed to Clay county and resided near Fairfield until his demise in November, 1897. Ten children were born to that union, of whom George E. was the eldest. One child besides our subject is living, W. T., also a retired farmer of Fairfield. The religious faith of Mr. and Mrs. Glass was that of the Christian church. Mr. Glass was a veteran of the Civil war, having become a member of the Thirty-sixth Iowa Regiment, with which he served one year. For many years he was a stanch supporter of the democratic party but later gave his political allegiance to the republican party.

George E. Glass attended the schools of Kentucky and Iowa and in 1862 enlisted for service in the Civil war becoming a member of Company C, Eighteenth Iowa Regiment, with which he served for three years. He was for the greater part of the time in Missouri and Arkansas. After the war he returned to Iowa where he remained five years. In 1871 he came to Nebraska and the following year located in Clay county, where he acquired a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres and resided thereon for a number of years. In 1904 he sold the homestead and purchased other land, of which he later also disposed. He and his wife spent five years in California, in which state they had previously spent several winters, and in 1920 returned to Clay county and located in Fairfield, where they have a fine home.

In 1878 occurred the marriage of Mr. Glass and Miss Maria C. Robinson, a native of Lucas county, Iowa, and a daughter of J. G. and Frances Wright (Allen) Robinson, the former a native of Washington county, Indiana, and the latter of near Lexington, Kentucky. Their marriage occurred in Indiana and they later removed to Lucas county, Iowa, where they resided for a number of years before

moving to Calhoun county, that state, where they passed away. Six children were born to that union, three of whom are living: Mrs. Haynes of Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Glass; and Mrs. Tigner of Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. Robinson was a democrat in politics and a strong prohibitionist. Both he and his wife were consistent members of the Christian church. He is a member of the G. A. R. post of Long Beach, California.

Mr. Glass has always given his political allegiance to the republican party, in the interests of which he has taken an active part. He has served as road supervisor and has been a member of the school board. The religious faith of Mr. and Mrs. Glass is that of the Christian church, of which they are consistent members. Mr. and Mrs. Glass are well known in the county and their home is noted for its hospitality.

FRANK FORST

Frank Forst is a prominent representative of the mercantile business in Clay county, his home being at Deweese. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on the 28th of October, 1860, a son of Anton and Elizabeth Forst, both natives of Bohemia, who came to the United States in 1858. They first located in St. Louis, where the father followed his trade as stone mason until 1872, when they removed to Nuckolls county. He homesteaded eighty acres of land in this county, making his home in a frame house already standing on the land and later erected a sod house, in which he resided for five or six years. He brought his original tract to a high state of cultivation and subsequently purchased another eighty adjoining and engaged in farming both tracts. His death occurred on the farm in 1886, while the mother passed away at Lawrence in 1896. Three children were born to their union: Annie, the widow of J. B. Massie, who now resides at Fairfield; Joe, a farmer of Kansas; and Frank, whose name initiates this review. Throughout their lives both Mr. and Mrs. Forst were consistent members of the Catholic church and he was a stanch supporter of the republican party.

In the acquirement of an education Frank Forst attended the public schools of St. Louis. His first occupation upon putting his textbooks aside was that of farming and when thirteen years of age he came to Nebraska and located in Nuckolls county with his parents. For ten years he assisted his father in farming the homestead and then removed to Fairfield, where he clerked in a store for one year. In 1889 he located in Deweese, where he has since remained. Upon locating there he entered the mercantile business, in which line he has built up an extensive and lucrative trade. He is a firm believer that satisfied customers are the best advertisement and endeavors to set before the public goods of the best quality at the fairest prices. Previous to locating in Deweese Mr. Forst traveled extensively throughout the United States, profiting by the national slogan, "See America First."

In 1888 Mr. Forst was united in marriage to Miss Helen Borek, a native of Moravia and a daughter of Joseph Borek. Her father engaged in farming in Clay county for a number of years and is now residing in Oklahoma, financially independent. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Forst two children have been born, one of whom is living: Hilda, the wife of C. J. Fuhrer, a railroad man of Fairmont.

In politics Mr. Forst is an earnest republican and he stands for all that is progressive in matters of citizenship. Thoroughness is one of his marked characteristics and he has mastered every detail of his own business. He has a very wide and favorable acquaintance and occupies a position of prominence by reason of his business ability and standing, his social qualities and his public spirit.

CHARLES EMRICH

For twenty-one years Charles Emrich engaged in farming an eighty acre tract just outside of Fairfield in which town he is now living retired. A native of New York, he was born in that state in 1851, a son of Frederick and Margaret (Bretch) Emrich, both natives of Germany who came to the United States in an early day, were married in New York and there resided until death. The father was a cooper by trade but followed farming for the most part, in which occupation he achieved a substantial amount of success. Nine children were born to that union, four of whom are now living: Charles, whose name initiates this review; Louis, a rancher near Grass Valley, California; Edward, conducting a grocery and meat business at Downers Grove, Illinois; and William, who is engaged in business with his brother Edward. Throughout their lives Mr. and Mrs. Emrich were consistent members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Emrich always gave his political allegiance to the democratic party.

Charles Emrich received a limited education in the district schools of New York. His oldest brother, John, enlisted for service in the Civil war and the services of Charles were needed on the home farm. At an early age he became a tiller of the soil and although he learned the blacksmith trade in New York he followed the former occupation the greater part of his life. When he removed to Illinois he conducted a blacksmith shop for five years, at the end of that time locating in Fairfield. For two years he engaged in farming near that town and then returned to Illinois for a short time. At a later date, however, he decided to make Fairfield his permanent residence and for some time engaged in the blacksmith business there, in which line of work he won more than a substantial amount of success. He disposed of his shop after several years and purchasing eighty acres of land near Fairfield engaged in the occupation in which he was reared, that of farming, for twenty-one years. There is no phase of agricultural development with which Mr. Emrich is not familiar and he is recognized among the many successful farmers in the community as a leading and influential agriculturist.

In 1881 occurred the marriage of Mr. Emrich and Miss Harriett Schermerhorn, a native of New York, and a daughter of Alonzo and Mary Ann (Webster) Schermerhorn, also natives of that state. Her father was a farmer and was well known throughout the community as a representative citizen. They were the parents of four children, two living: George Bryan, a retired farmer of Hill, New York; and Mrs. Emrich. They were both consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he was always a stanch supporter of the republican party. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Emrich, three children were born: Laura, who is the wife of Harry Wilcox, farming the homestead of Mr. Emrich; George Brayton, residing at

home; and Margaret Maurine, who is now engaged in teaching a country school. George Brayton entered the World war in 1917, enlisting in the truck corps. During his sixteen months' service he was located at Fort Logan, Colorado, San Antonio and Waco, Texas, and subsequently Virginia, where he drove a truck between Richmond and Camp Morrison. He received his discharge in 1918.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Emrich the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party, in the interests of which he has taken an active part, although he has neither sought nor desired office as a reward for party fealty. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church and fraternally he is identified with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Degree of Honor. Mrs. Emrich is also a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church and in club circles is active as a prominent member of the Clover Club. For the past ten years Mr. and Mrs. Emrich have lived retired in Fairfield, where they are readily conceded representative citizens. Both are owners of some fine land between Fairfield and Clay Center, owning three hundred and twenty acres in two different farms.

CHRISTIAN PETERSEN

Christian Petersen, after long years of connection with agricultural interests in Clay county, is now living retired at Ong. He is a native of Denmark, in which country his birth occurred on the 21st of February, 1844, a son of Jens and Christiana (Larsen) Petersen. His father engaged in farming in that country and was a prominent citizen of the community in which he made his home.

Christian Petersen received his education in the schools of his native country and came to the United States in 1872, going to Wisconsin, where he obtained work on farms and in the lumber camps. On the 11th of July, 1875, he came to Clay county, where he bought a homestead right of eighty acres and broke the land himself. He put up a small sod house of one room with a board floor and roof and had it plastered inside. He also erected a slab barn with straw roof, in which to house his cattle and protect them from the weather. He set out some shade trees and an orchard, the latter mostly dying out, and he dug a deep well, from which he secured the greater part of his water. He brought the place to a high state of cultivation and improvement and thereon did general farming and feeding, specializing in hogs. During the drought years of 1893 and 1894 he raised practically no crops. He achieved a substantial amount of success with his farming and feeding, having about one hundred head of hogs on hand every year. In 1901 he retired from active life and removed to Ong.

While working in Wisconsin Mr. Petersen met and married Miss Gertrude Jorgensen, a native of Denmark, and they adopted and reared one daughter, Flossie, who is at home.

The political allegiance of Mr. Petersen is given to the democratic party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. He served as county supervisor for two terms, was chairman of the village board and also held numerous township and school offices. The religious faith of the family is that of the Lutheran church. Mr. Petersen has contributed much to the agricultural growth of Clay county and

at one time owned a half section of fine land which he later disposed of. Those who know him, and he has many friends, esteem him highly as a man of genuine personal worth, as a business man of ability and as a citzen who is ever loyal to the best interests of the community.

TRUMAN B. McCLELLAN

For many years Truman B. McClellan was widely known throughout Clay county as a prominent and successful agriculturist and business man. He was also well known in political circles and for two years held the office of mayor of Edgar. His death, which occurred on the 16th of December, 1917, came as a severe shock to his many friends in the community and left a void which will be hard to fill. He was born in northern Indiana on the 29th of October, 1846, a son of Thomas and Mary McClellan, both natives of Ireland who came to the United States with their parents when but children. They first located in Michigan, then removed to Indiana and subsequently to Wisconsin, where they remained until death.

Truman B. McClellan was indebted to the schools of Berlin, Wisconsin, for his education and after putting his textbooks aside he engaged in farming. In 1879 he came to Nebraska and located in Clay County, where he lived on his father-in-law's farm for a number of years and then removed into Edgar, where he bought and sold live stock. Mr. McClellan always took an active part in the development and improvement of the community and served his fellowmen as mayor for two terms and also on the town board.

In 1870 Mr. McClellan was united in marriage to Miss Lillian Grant, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of Harvey and Elizabeth (Randall) Grant, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of Vermont. The father was a well educated man for his day, having attended the common schools of Ohio and later the Oberlin College. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Grant took place in Ohio but soon afterward they removed to Wisconsin, where he preempted land on which they resided for a number of years. Subsequently they came to Edgar, Nebraska, in 1881, and he purchased some fine land in Clay county. At the time of his demise he was in possession of much valuable land. Before his death he erected a fine home in Edgar, which is now owned by Mrs. McClellan and in which she resides. There were four children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Grant, two of whom are now living: Mrs. McClellan; and Eva, who is the wife of R. C. Gill, an attorney of Seattle, Washington. Three children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. McClellan, all of whom are deceased, but three grandchildren are now residing with Mrs. McClellan.

Mr. McClellan gave his political allegiance to the republican party, having firm belief in the principles of that party as factors in good government. For some time he had lived on a ranch in Hitchcock county but sold it and removed to Edgar in 1917. Mr. McClellan was noted for his liberality and kindness. He was a friend to the needy and many times he sat in the sick room of friends or neighbors all night so that other members of the family might have a much



TRUMAN B. McCLELLAN

needed rest. He was keenly interested in all those activities which have to do with the upbuilding and development of the city along the lines leading to its permanent good and his worth as a man and a citizen was widely recognized. Mrs. McClellan is a consistent member of the Episcopal church and is active in the club and social circles of Edgar. In addition to her home property she owns a farm of two hundred and forty acres near Edgar.

CHARLES J. FURER

Charles J. Furer, engaged in the real estate and land business in Fairfield, was born in Woodstock, Illinois, in August, 1858, a son of Edward and Wilhelmina (Reimen) Furer, both natives of Hessen, Germany, in which country they were married and then came to the United States, locating in Woodstock, Illinois, in 1858. The father engaged in the grain and live stock business and was a successful and prominent man in the community. Six children were born to that union: C. J., whose name initiates this review; Emma, a resident of Illinois; Augusta, who is the wife of E. E. Bagley of Ashland, Oregon; Lillie, who is the wife of F. G. Blakeslee of Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Amelia, a resident of Woodstock, Illinois. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Blakeslee, Edward, was first aid to Admiral Sims and assisted in laying all of the wireless radio system from France to England. His rank was that of lieutenant commodore and he served with distinction throughout the war. He had been a resident of Fairfield from 1884 to 1888 and his death, which occurred the February following the signing of the armistice, came as a severe shock to his many friends. The sixth and last member of the Furer family is Belle, the wife of Edward Heinmendinger, and they are residents of San Diego, California.

C. J. Furer received his education at Notre Dame, Indiana, and in 1876 graduated from a commercial school. He then went into the grain and live stock business with his father, but in October, 1883, left the parental roof and came to Nebraska, locating in Fairfield. Until 1910 he engaged in the grain and live stock business on his own account and had nine elevators on the K. C. & O. and St. Joe & Grand Island railroads for ten years. He shipped the first grain out of Clay Center and Verona and also shipped the first carload of stock out of Sutton on the K. C. & O. His business was of extensive proportions and in addition he owned a number of creameries. They were located at Fairfield, Davenport, Alma and Ruskin. In 1910 he launched into the real estate business and has won a great amount of success along that line. His business is extensive, covering western Nebraska and eastern Colorado, in which states he has charge of and partly owns forty-five quarter sections of land. One year he shipped ten thousand bushels of grain and received top price for most of that wheat. Mr. Furer had but little financial backing when he came to Clay county but he was a man of determined effort and allowed no obstacle to remain long in his path.

On the 8th of January, 1888, occurred the marriage of Mr. Furer and Miss Belle Wright, a native of Canada, and a daughter of Abraham and Jane (MacFarquahr) Wright, the former a native of England and the latter of Scotland. They

were married in Canada, where they came as young people and there resided until death, the father being a prominent and successful farmer. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Furer: Edward, in the grocery business at Sidney; Jeansie, the wife of Carl Wiley, a traveling salesman of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Donald, who is attending school in Fairfield.

Along political lines Mr. Furer gives his allegiance to no particular party but follows an independent course, supporting the man he thinks best fitted for the office. His religious faith is that of the Congregational church. In 1911 he built a fine modern home in Fairfield and resides there, a representative citizen. He has always taken a prominent part in the development and improvment of the community and his progress in his personal business is the result of his industry and determination.

ERNEST SCHROEDER

A native of Nebraska is Ernest Schroeder who was born in Jefferson county May 24, 1876, and is now residing on a fine farm in section 13, Marshall township, Clay county. His parents, John and Elizabeth (Possehl) Schroeder were both born in Germany and came to the United States when young people. The father first located in Iowa, where he worked out for some time and then came to Nebraska, settling in Jefferson county in 1870. He homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of raw land in that county, which he broke with the aid of a team and thereon resided for some years, his home being a primitive dugout. Some time later he built a fine frame house on the land, which he brought to a high state of cultivation. Buffaloes and antelopes were plentiful in the vicinity of his home and he enjoyed many hunting trips. The Indians passed through his place on their fall and spring hunting trips and would often stop for food and warmth. He later disposed of his homestead and bought more raw land in Jefferson county, which he immediately put into cultivation and set out many shade trees and an orchard. He did the greater part of his trading at Old Meridian. In later life he became financially independent, owning a half section in Jefferson county and a quarter section in Oklahoma, and he was living retired at the time of his death in 1914, at the age of sixty-five years. The mother passed away in 1901, at the age of fifty-seven. Both Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder were consistent members of the Evangelical church and the father assisted in the organization of three schools. Eleven children were born to that union: John, a farmer of Colorado; Ernest, whose name initiates this review; Albert, deceased; Otto, in Canada on a farm; Frank, deceased; Conrad, farming in Canada; Emma, the wife of Henry Ohs, a farmer of Clay county; Lizzie, the wife of Henry Knape, a farmer of Thayer county; Rosa, the wife of Ernest McLain, who served in the World war with a Colorado regiment; Lela, the wife of Dale Gehr of Florida; and Lena, who is clerk in the fruit department of Granger Brothers at Lincoln. The last named children are twins.

In the acquirement of an education Ernest Schroeder attended the country schools of Jefferson county and remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-one years of age, at which time he started farming on his own account. For three years he rented land and then in 1901 purchased one hundred and sixty acres

of broken land with no improvements. It is now one of the finest farms in Clay county.

In 1906 Mr. Schroeder was united in marriage to Miss Amelia Hoesch, a native of Germany and a daughter of Carl and Catherine (Schur) Hoesch, also natives of that country. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder: Mildred, Ruth, Lily, Frank, Ella, Selma, and Harvey, all residing at home.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Schroeder the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the republican party and the principles for which it stands. The religious faith of the family is that of the Evangelical church, of which he is class leader and assistant superintendent. For one term Mr. Schroeder served his fellow citizens as road overseer. He now owns three hundred and twenty acres of land with two sets of improvements and rents a part of it. In addition to his agricultural interests he has an interest in the Farmers Elevator at Verona and is an active member of the Farmers Union. When Mr. Schroeder started farming on his own account he had but one team of horses and very little financial assistance, but step by step he worked his way upward until he is now numbered among the prominent farmers of Clay county. He has seen the work of progress and development carried steadily forward and at all times has borne his part, especially along the line of agricultural development.

WILBER M. STEPHENSON

Since 1886 Wilber M. Stephenson has engaged in the painting and paper hanging business in Fairfield and has made for himself a creditable name and place in the business circles of that place and throughout Clay county. He was born in Chickasaw county, Iowa, on the 5th of December, 1860, a son of Franklin and Julia (Larabee) Stephenson, both natives of New York state, where they were married. Soon after that event they removed to Indiana, later to Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois, and subsequently in 1871 located in Clay county. In June of that year he homesteaded in this county, where he resided until his death. Ten children were born to that union, six of whom are living: Harriett J. Rider of Lincoln; M. A., who is an insurance man in Fairfield; Louisa E. Choat, a widow residing in Fairfield; Sarah Choat, also a widow who makes her home in Fairfield; Laura Krell of Hastings; and Wilber M., of this review. Throughout their lives Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson were consistent members of the Christian church and he always gave his allegiance to the democratic party. Franklin Stephenson was a veteran of the Civil war, having served with the Sixth Iowa Cavalry. He received a wound which disabled him for further active service and he was given an honorable discharge.

Wilber M. Stephenson is indebted to the schools of Iowa and Nebraska for his education. He was reared on a farm and in 1886 came to Nebraska, locating at Fairfield, where he has since resided. He started a painting and paper hanging establishment and along that line has made a name for himself throughout the county.

In 1884 occurred the marriage of Mr. Stephenson and Miss Cora Allen, a native

of New York and a daughter of T. Allen who came to Clay county in 1879. He afterward removed to Idaho and there his death occurred. Seven children have been born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson, five of whom are living: Glenn E., who has taught school for seventeen years and resides at home; Mabel, the wife of C. K. Titus, a minister in the Christian church at Joplin, Missouri; Merle, who married H. P. Dalton, a merchant of Lamar, Missouri; Ray, a farmer and fruit grower of Gulfport, Mississippi, who was checker of an aviation branch at Hoboken, New Jersey, during the World war; and Aline, who is attending high school in Fairfield.

The political endorsement of Mr. Stephenson is given to the democratic party, he having firm belief in the principles of that party as factors in good government. The religious faith of the family is that of the Christian church. Mr. Stephenson devotes his entire time to his business affairs and is known as a good business man, who by reason of keen sagacity, unabating energy and sound judgment is meeting with continued success.

REMMER JOHNSON

For a number of years Remmer Johnson has been identified with farming in Clay county, where he is the owner of five hundred and twenty-five acres of excellent farm property and is classed with the most enterprising and prosperous farmers and stock raisers of that community. He was born in Germany July 5, 1865, a son of Anard and Maria (Jansen) Johnson. The father passed away in Germany but the mother is still living at the age of eighty-four years. She makes her home in Adams county. When Remmer Johnson was three years of age he came to the United States with his mother, who located in Woodford county, Illinois, and there she married Wilke Van Boening of Logan county, Illinois. On the 2d of February, 1876, the family came to Nebraska, locating in Adams county, where Mr. Van Boening purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land for seven dollars an acre and built thereon a house and barn, hauling the lumber from Hastings. Remmer Johnson assisted his stepfather to break the land with the two mule teams they brought with them from Illinois and on the homestead Mr. Van Boening passed away at the age of sixty-one years. He owned four hundred acres of valuable farm property at the time of his death, all well improved and modern in every way. Remmer Johnson has one half brother, S. W., who farms in Adams county, and a half sister, Johanna, the wife of Fred Hartwig of Peoria, Illinois. Mr. Van Boening was a consistent member of the Lutheran church and a school director while residing in Adams county.

Remmer Johnson received his education in the country schools of Illinois and also in Adams county, Nebraska, where he had to walk a distance of four and one-half miles a day to school for four or five months in the year. He remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-three years of age, when he began farming on one of his stepfather's farms and later purchased eighty acres on his own account, engaging in general farming. Prior to his removal to Clay county in 1906, Mr. Johnson bought seventy acres there and subsequently purchased an additional

four hundred and fifty acres, owning the old D. M. Nettleton homestead. His land is well improved, highly cultivated, and is one of the most valuable farm properties in the county. In the hot winds of 1893 Mr. Johnson suffered the loss of one hundred and ten acres of corn and likewise met with misfortune during the blizzard and hailstorms.

In 1888 Mr. Johnson married Hilke J. Claassen, a native of Germany and to them three children have been born: Jacob, who is farming in Clay county; Marie, the wife of Herman M. Valentine, a farmer of Pauline; and Lucy, who is attending school and residing at home.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Johnson the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party, in the interests of which he has taken an active part. For eight years he has served as justice of the peace and he has always been active in the development and improvement of the community. The religious faith of the family is that of the Lutheran church, of which he has been a director for many years. He has held various school offices and is now vice president of the Farmers' State Bank at Glenville and likewise interested in the Farmers Grain and Supply Company at Springranch. His time and energies are concentrated upon his agricultural and business affairs and stock raising and he has justly won classification with the representative farmers of Clay county.

SAMUEL McKELVIE

One of the best known farmers and stock raisers in Clay county is Samuel McKelvie, who was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, August 6, 1849, a son of Samuel and Jane (Sharon) McKelvie, the former a native of Lochnor, Scotland, and the latter of Tuscarawas county, Ohio. Their marriage occurred in Ohio, where the father came in 1844 and there remained until 1851, when he removed to Illinois and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land. On the farm he reared his family and resided until his death in 1867. To that union eight children were born, four of whom are living: William, a painter of Carthage, Illinois; Samuel, whose name initiates this review; John, a farmer of Plymouth, Illinois; and Andrew, a retired farmer of Meadville, Nebraska. Throughout his life Mr. McKelvie was a consistent Presbyterian and a stanch supporter of the democratic party, while his wife was a lifelong member of the Baptist church. Mr. McKelvie was a well educated man for his day and found his greatest relaxation when reading fine books.

Samuel McKelvie received his education in the common schools of Illinois, the Normal school at Macomb, and in a private seminary at Abingdon. His first occupation upon putting his textbooks aside was that of farming and stock raising, which lines of work he has since followed. He did, however, teach school for some time, being seventeen years of age when he secured his first school. In November of the year 1874 he came to Clay county, Nebraska, and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land for one dollar and fifty cents an acre. He then returned to Illinois, taught school for a time and subsequently removed with his family back to the homestead in Clay county, arriving there in 1879. Their first home on the land

was part dugout and part frame but later a more modern home was built on the farm. At the time of purchase the land was entirely uncultivated but it is now one of the attractive places of the county. From Illinois Mr. McKelvie brought two pure full-bred Poland China hogs, in which breed he has since specialized and now has about two hundred head of hogs and one hundred head of cattle. Mr. McKelvie has had exhibits at many stock shows during the past twenty-five years and has won many prizes. He was awarded the first prize at the International Stock Show in Chicago in 1917 and in 1920 he attended many fairs in the south. Mr. McKelvie is now one of the extensive land owners of Nebraska, having one section of land in Clay county and thirteen quarter sections in Chase county. He also owns valuable city property in Lincoln.

While residing in Illinois Mr. McKelvie was united in marriage in 1871 to Miss Jennie Glandon, a native of Ohio and a daughter of John and Delilah Glandon, also natives of that state, who went to Illinois at an early day. Her father was well known in the state as a prominent farmer and successful stock man and there resided until his death. Four children were born to this union, two of whom are living. The death of Mrs. McKelvie occurred on the 24th of February, 1919, and came as a severe blow to her family and many friends throughout the community. She was the mother of nine children, seven of whom are living: H. L., a farmer and stock raiser of Clay county; Otis A., an attorney, trader and real estate man of California; Othelo, who is in partnership with his father; Maude, who is the wife of Hugo Schleuter, assistant city engineer of Lincoln; Samuel Roy, who was elected governor of the state of Nebraska in April, 1881, and served a second term; Hiram C., newspaper man and live stock solicitor for farmers, residing at Lincoln; and Florence, the wife of W. E. Brown of Lincoln, with the Robert Sterre Company. Throughout her life Mrs. McKelvie was a stanch supporter of the Methodist Episcopal church, to the activities of which she gave a great deal of her time.

Since age conferred upon Mr. McKelvie the right of franchise he has been a democrat and he served his fellow citizens as a justice of the peace for many years. Fraternally he is a charter member of the Odd Fellows, belonging to lodge No. 128, of Fairfield. He has served as noble grand several times and is past grand of that order. The life of Mr. McKelvie is worthy of emulation, for he is a self-made man, in whom the interests and activities of life are well balanced and who by reason of his intelligently directed effort has made himself a man of force and value to the community.

MONS NELSON

Mons Nelson, deceased, was numbered among the pioneer farmers of Clay county, having come here in 1882. He was born in Sweden on the 19th of November, 1862, and passed away on May 10, 1918. His parents were natives of that country, where they resided till death and where they were prominent and highly respected citizens. To them seven children were born, of whom four daughters are living.

Mons Nelson obtained his educational training in his native country, where he

resided until he was seventeen years of age. He then determined to come to the United States, the land of greater opportunities, and as a result located in Illinois. For some time he worked in that state on a farm and then went west to California, remaining there until 1882, when he removed to Clay county and bought land. Soon afterward he returned to California for a short time and then came back to Clay county. He bought his land in that county on time and started housekeeping in a little three-room house with a barn to house his cattle. The first few years on the homestead were full of hardships, when he lost crops as a result of hailstorms and blizzards, but Mr. Nelson with determined energy allowed no obstacle, however great, to remain long in his path. Soon he had the farm on a paying basis and was feeding cattle in connection with general farming on a large scale. Three different sets of improvements now stand on the farm and the residence is modern in every respect. In 1893 he went to North Dakota, where he homesteaded and proved up on his homestead, then came back to this farm in 1894. At the time of his death Mr. Nelson was in possession of two hundred and forty acres of land, which he acquired as the result of his own effort and for a few years previous to his death he enjoyed financial independence.

In 1890 occurred the marriage of Mr. Nelson and Miss Anna Swanson, a daughter of Swan Nicholson and Hanna (Pearson) Swanson, both of whom are residing in Sweden. They are the parents of nine children, six living, of whom four are residents of the United States. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson nine children were born: Ernest, who rents his mother's farm; Oscar, a farmer of Fremont county; Annetta, residing in Colorado; Thilda, teaching school at Havelock; Florence, training for a nurse at the Methodist Episcopal hospital in Omaha; Pearl, attending school in Edgar; Monell, attending school in Ong; Leonard, in school; and Burdette, also attending school.

The religious faith of the Nelson family is that of the Swedish Lutheran church of Stockham and during his life Mr. Nelson was a prominent and active member of that organization. Fraternally he was affiliated with the Woodmen and his political allegiance was given to the republican party. Going out into the world on his own account at an early age Mr. Nelson learned his lessons in the school of experience and the story of his life illustrates that it is under the pressure of adversity and the stimulus of necessity that the strongest and best in men is brought out and developed.

HOMER L. McKELVIE

Homer L. McKelvie, prominent in the agricultural and stock raising circles of Clay county, Nebraska, was born in Schuyler county, Illinois, May 27, 1874, a son of Samuel McKelvie, further mention of whom is made on another page of this work.

Homer L. McKelvie received his education in the country schools and later entered Christian College at Fairfield. After putting his textbooks aside he commenced farming and has followed that occupation ever since. He is engaged extensively in raising pure blood Poland China hogs, averaging from five hundred to six hundred a year and at present has over five hundred head. Mr. McKelvie owns a

half section of well improved land whereon he makes his home and devotes his entire time to his agricultural pursuits. He is well known throughout the county as a prominent and successful man and this is due solely to his own efforts.

In 1895 occurred the marriage of Mr. McKelvie and Miss Mary E. Bayles, a native of Clay county. She was born near Harvard, a daughter of Richard W. and Loretta E. Bayles, pioneers of Clay county, where they homesteaded in 1871. The father passed away in Harvard on the 15th of July, 1920, and the mother is still residing in Harvard. Mrs. McKelvie is one of the six children born to that union, being the fourth in order of birth. Five are living. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. McKelvie three sons have been born: Carl L., who is farming on his own account near his father; Richard S., attending school in Fairfield; and Homer Dolland, who is in school at Fairfield.

The political allegiance of Mr. McKelvie is given to the republican party, in the principles of which he has firm belief. His fraternal affiliations are with the Odd Fellows and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is one of the progressive men of the community who has always taken an interest in civic affairs and any movement which he deems of value to the improvement or development of the community is assured his undivided support.

JARVIS CHAFFEE

The late Jarvis Chaffee came from Wisconsin to Hamilton county, Nebraska, in the year 1866, a few months prior to the admission of the state to the Union, and he was at the time a young veteran who had valiantly served as a soldier of the Union army in the Civil war. Thus he became a pioneer of pioneers in this county, where he met with characteristic fortitude and determination the adverse conditions and the heavy labors that marked the pioneer era and where he lived to enjoy the prosperity of the later years, having been sixty-three years of age at the time of his death, in 1900.

Mr. Chaffee was born in Geauga county, Ohio, and was young when he accompanied his parents to Wisconsin, where he was living at the beginning of the Civil war. His youthful patriotism found expression in his enlistment as a private in Company I, Forty-sixth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which command he proceeded to the front and took part in numerous engagements marking the progress of the great conflict. After having thus given valiant service in the preservation of the nation's integrity he returned to Wisconsin, but it was not long after the close of the war that he began to fight the stern battles of a pioneer in Nebraska, to which territory he came in 1866, the overland journey being made with a team and spring wagon, in the wake of which plodded four cows, so that it is not strange that six weeks elapsed ere he arrived at his destination in Hamilton county. In the present township of Orville, he entered claim to a homestead of one hundred sixty acres, which he soon supplied with a dugout house and barn, the first evidences of habitation on the wild prairie. He was compelled to go to distant points for his early



MR. AND MRS. JARVIS CHAFFEE



marketing and the family larder in the early days was augmented largely by his success in the killing of buffaloes, deer, elk and antelopes. He brought down a number of deer on his own unfenced farm, and at one time fully three thousand Indians camped near his land. Mr. Chaffee and his faithful wife did not escape their full quota of hardships and trials, including loss of crops through droughts, hailstorms, grasshoppers and other adverse conditions and like other pioneers they were snowbound three days at the time of the memorable Easter blizzard of 1873, which was one of the most severe recorded in Nebraska history. Mr. Chaffee followed progressive policies in the developing and improving of his farm and eventually made it one of the model places of Hamilton county, with excellent buildings and manifold other evidences of substantial prosperity. It was a far cry from the conditions of the early day to those which were in evidence during the closing period of his earnest and worthy life and he had full appreciation of the advantages and independence that had come to him to reward his earlier toils and privations. He had somewhat unusual experience in providing food for the grasshoppers, which did not hesitate to attack the tobacco plants which he had growing on his farm. Mr. Chaffee remained on his old homestead until his death and his name has high place on the roll of the honored pioneers of this section of the state of Nebraska. He was a man of industry and persistence, a productive worker, and had no desire for official preferment or political activity, though he was a stanch republican and was loyal and liberal as a citizen. He maintained affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic and was a member of the post at Stockham at the time of his death.

In Ohio, when a young man, Mr. Chaffee married Miss Nancy Markham, who was born and reared in that state and who did not long survive after the home had been established in Hamilton county, Nebraska, where her death occurred in 1871. Her only child, Jesse, was born December 15, 1869, and is conceded to have been the second white male child born in Hamilton county, where he is now a substantial, popular citizen and successful farmer, on his father's old homestead farm in section 34, Orville township. In 1876 Mr. Chaffee contracted a second marriage, when Miss Sarah Frazier, likewise a native of Ohio, became his wife. She survives him and still resides on the old home farm, of which Edward, the elder of her two children, now has the active management, the younger son, Roy, likewise being numbered among the progressive farmers of the younger generation in Hamilton county.

WILLIAM McLAUGHLIN

William McLaughlin, living in section 26, Sheridan township, where he has a splendid farm that is highly productive, was born in northern Ireland on the thirteenth of November, 1855, a son of John and Ellen (Gillin) McLaughlin, also natives of that country. His parents came to the United States in the early '70s and first located in Illinois, where they remained until 1885 and then removed to Clay county, where the father retired and lived until his death. Five children were

born to that union, of whom our subject is the only one living. Both Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin were consistent members of the Presbyterian church and he was fraternally identified with the Masons. John McLaughlin was a stanch republican, in the interests of which party he took an active part.

William McLaughlin received his education in the schools of Ireland and came to this country with his parents, locating in Illinois. There he engaged in working out on farms by the month and afterwards farmed rented land for some time. In 1885 he came to Clay county and engaged in the cattle business, being associated with his brother John for a number of years. In 1887 William McLaughlin purchased a portion of his present farm to which he later added additional land, his farm now comprising four hundred and eighty acres. He has brought his land to a highly cultivated state and has put up many fine improvements. In past years he was recognized as one of the representative agriculturists in Clay county. The sons now run the farm.

In March, 1883, occurred the marriage of Mr. McLaughlin and Miss Jeanette Wilson, a native of Illinois and a daughter of David Wilson, an early pioneer of Illinois, in which state he resided until his death. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin the following children were born: Bernard, farming for his father; Alice, who is the wife of John Overturf, a farmer of Clay county; Grace, the wife of S. Urbauer, residing on the father's farm; Murray, a farmer of Big Horn Basin, Wyoming; LeRoy, a doctor in St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago; Gayle, residing on the home farm; Wilson, on the home farm; and Willard, attending a dental college in Omaha. The death of Mrs. McLaughlin occurred in 1902 and came as a severe shock to her family and many friends in the county. She was a Quaker.

The political allegiance of Mr. McLaughlin is given the democratic party and he has held various township offices. He had but little when he started farming on his own account and his laudable ambition and determined effort are responsible for his present-day success. He has thoroughly identified his interests with those of his community and can be counted upon to do his part in furthering the public welfare. He has many friends who esteem him as a man of genuine personal worth, a business man of ability and a representative citizen.

CHARLES SCHLIEP

Charles Schliep, justly accounted one of the representative farmers of Clay county, located in township 6, range 7, section 29, was born in Illinois in 1879, a son of Frank and Dena (Friezman) Schliep, both natives of Germany. They were married in that country and coming to the United States soon afterward, located in Illinois. There the father followed farming until 1879, when he removed to Nebraska and bought a farm in Clay county. He was a very successful man and at the time of his death owned four hundred and eighty acres in the county. On first coming to the United States he had a hard time but his grim determination and well directed effort and industry helped him to overcome all obstacles and he reached the top round of the ladder of success. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Schliep, eight living, all of whom are residing in Clay county with the excep-

tion of one, who lives in South Dakota. Charles Schliep was the fifth in order of birth and a twin of George. The other children are: John, residing in Glenville township; Reka, who is the wife of Charles Barge of Fairfield; Henry, farming in South Dakota; George, residing near Glenville; Sam, also living near Glenville; Lena, who is the wife of Charles Nowka, a farmer northeast of Hastings; and Kate, who is the wife of Jack Clark, owner of a bakery. Throughout life Mr. Schliep was a stanch supporter of the republican party and both he and his wife were consistent members of the Church of God.

Charles Schliep received his education in the district schools near Glenville and after putting his textbooks aside assisted his father in farming the home place. At the age of twenty-one years he bought a farm near Clay Center, which he traded some time later for his present place near Fairfield. He owns two hundred and forty acres of highly improved and cultivated land, on which he has built a modern home and fine outbuildings.

On the 25th of November, 1903, occurred the marriage of Mr. Schliep and Miss Mary Konzak, a native of Clay county and a daughter of Fred Konzak, who came to Clay county in an early day. He is still living at Harvard, where he is a prominent and highly respected citizen. Six children have been born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Schliep: Freddie, sixteen years of age; Ethel, fourteen years of age; Raymond, eleven years of age; Ruby, who is nine years of age; Elizabeth, four years of age; and Chester, two years of age.

In politics Mr. Schliep is an earnest republican and he stands for all that is progressive in matters of citizenship. He served as road overseer three years and his undivided support may always be counted upon in furthering any movement for promotion of the general welfare. The religious faith of the family is that of the Church of God, of which they are consistent and prominent members. Mr. Schliep has always engaged in mixed farming, raising some stock, and the concentration of his energies upon his business affairs has justly won him classification with the representative farmers of Clay county.

ANTONE SPECHT

Antone Specht, a retired farmer living at Edgar, is one of the influential and respected citizens of that place. His life has been one of great industry and he has gained well earned prosperity. He was born in Germany, October 4, 1859, a son of A. and Barbara (Bieck) Specht, both natives of that country, where they passed away. The father was a farmer and was well known in the community in which he resided as a successful and progressive man. Twelve children were born to that union, of whom our subejct was the eleventh in order of birth. Six of the family came to the United States: Frank, who was county treasurer of Marshall county, Illinois, for two terms; Thomas, who for years resided in Boulder, Colorado, where his demise occurred; Antone, the subject of this review; August, residing in Portland, Oregon; Joseph, a resident of La Salle, Illinois; and Emma Ripley of Peoria, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Specht were members of the Catholic church, in which faith the family were reared.

Antone Specht received his education in the schools of his native country but realizing that broader opportunities were offered for young men in the new world he came to the United States in 1879. For a short time he remained in New York, where he learned the butcher business and followed that work at various places until 1892 when he came to Clay county, settling at Edgar. He then bought a butcher shop which he ran for a number of years and in connection with that business bought and sold stock of all kinds. He built up a fine trade, conducted his business on high and honorable principles and became well known throughout the community. He owns a block of land in town, which he uses for feeding stock, in addition to a fine home property.

In 1883 occurred the marriage of Mr. Specht to Miss Frances Stegelman, a native of Germany who came to the United States alone in 1880. To their union six children have been born: Oscar, a stockman with the Cudahy Packing Company at St. Joseph; Clara, the wife of Mack Welan, who owns a restaurant in Kimball; Edgar, connected with a plow and implement company at Louisville, Kentucky; Frank, who owns a restaurant at Edgar; Grace, who is the wife of August Stoldoff, a conductor on the Burlington; and Emma, the wife of Fred Sceiast, manager of the elevator at Kimball.

The political allegiance of Mr. Specht is given to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. For some time he was a member of the town council of Filley, Gage county. The religious faith of Mr. Specht is that of the Catholic church, while his wife is a Lutheran, and his fraternal affiliations are with the Masons. He is owner of one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land in Clay county and is financially independent. As the result of his own determined effort Mr. Specht has achieved more than a substantial amount of success and is rightly entitled to the proud American title of a self-made man.

WILLIAM SHIVELY

William Shively, whose efforts have ever been guided by sound judgment and who in his farming operations has won a measure of success that now enables him to live retired in a most attractive, pleasant and comfortable home in Edgar, was born in Berlin, Ohio, September 1, 1847, a son of Peter and Eleanor (Aten) Shively. His paternal grandfather, George Shively, was a native of Germany and his maternal grandfather, Aaron Aten was born in this country, of English and Scotch ancestry. His father, Peter Shively, was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, in 1802, and passed away in 1856. The mother was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, in 1806, and her demise occurred in 1877. In 1826 her marriage to Peter Shively occurred in that state and two years later they removed to Ohio, where the father purchased a farm in Portage county. There they resided until death. Seven children were born to them, William being the only one now living. They were members of the Congregational church and Mr. Shively gave his support to the whig party.

William Shively received his education in the district schools of Ohio and after putting his textbooks aside engaged in farming. In 1880 he came to Clay county,

where he had purchased land, one hundred and sixty acres, on ten years' time. He had but one hundred dollars to pay down on it. He also owned some land in Kansas. His Clay county land he brought to a high state of cultivation and resided thereon until the fall of 1909 when he removed into Edgar. He sold his farm, the sale netting him a substantial sum, and has since led a retired life. Mr. Shively has always taken a keen interest in the development and improvement of the community and as a result of his popularity was in 1917 elected to the office of mayor. He held that office only three days when he resigned, feeling himself unable to cope with certain situations. He is known far and wide for his conscientiousness and honesty and is highly respected by his fellow citizens. He has been on the city council and the school board and was county supervisor while still living on the farm.

In 1876 in Ohio occurred the marriage of Mr. Shively and Miss Almina Sheets, a native of Deerfield, Portage county, Ohio, and a daughter of Linus and Mary (Wilcox) Sheets, both natives of that state. The father engaged in farming there for many years and was a prominent man in the community in which he resided until death. Mr. and Mrs. Shively have one adopted daughter, Gertrude, who is now the wife of Thomas C. Hart, a farmer of Edgar.

The political allegiance of Mr. Shively is given to the republican party, in the interests of which he has always taken an active part and his religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Shively is never remiss in duties of citizenship, standing loyally for every cause or project which he believes to be for the benefit and upbuilding of community, commonwealth or country.

LE ROY BURLINGAME

Le Roy Burlingame, who for many years was identified with contracting and building in Clay Center, becoming one of the pioneer residents of the town and contributing much to its development as the years passed, was born in Warren county, Iowa, in 1856, and died in Clay Center in 1900. His parents were S. L. and Roda (Tuttle) Burlingame, both of whom were natives of New England. Removing to Iowa, they spent several years in that state and in 1880 came to Nebraska, settling in Osceola. The father, who had for many years followed farming, retired from active business life in his later years. For a considerable period he filled the office of treasurer of Polk county, Nebraska. To him and his wife were born ten children, five of whom are living.

Le Roy Burlingame, who was the fifth in order of birth in the family, pursued his education largely in the schools of Indianola, Iowa, and afterward learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed until within a period of four years prior to his demise. He came to Clay Center in 1880 at the time of his parents' removal here, being then a young man of twenty-four years. There were few houses in the town and he assisted in building many of the principal residences of this place. He did contract work for several years and won success through his capability and able management.

In 1878 Mr. Burlingame was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Council, who

was born in Warren, Iowa, a daughter of Willis and Matilda (Boseman) Council. Her father was the second white child born in Illinois after the admission of the state into the Union and the mother was a native of North Carolina. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Council were eight children, four of whom survive: Leonard, who is a retired farmer, now living in Summerset, Iowa; Mrs. M. E. Stiles, a widow, residing at Harvard, Nebraska; Mrs. Abe Coffman, also a widow, living in Oakland, Nebraska; and Mrs. Burlingame. The parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Their consistent Christian lives won them the respect of all who knew them. The father had served as a soldier in the War of 1812.

To Mr. and Mrs. Burlingame were born three children: Bessie, who for twelve or more years has been employed in the post office at Clay Center; Bertha, who occupies a position in the state house at Lincoln; and Hazel Edna, the wife of R. E. Forsell, of Omaha, who is a foreman for the National Refining Company. Mrs. Burlingame and her daughters are loyal and helpful members of the Christian church. Mr. Burlingame was a member of the Knights of Pythias, also of the Modern Woodmen and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and he was interested in all that pertained to progress and improvement in the city and county. After her husband's death Mrs. Burlingame built a nice home in Clay Center, taking up her abode therein in 1912. She has carefully reared her family, for twenty-one years have passed away since her husband's death, and she may well be proud of the records made by her daughters. Mrs. Burlingame has ever taken a helpful interest in the work of the church and the daughter, Bessie, has played the piano in the church for sixteen years. Their aid is always given on the side of right, advancement and improvement and the family is highly esteemed in Clay Center.

D. B. MASSIE

D. B. Massie, a native son of Clay county, is now engaged in farming three miles west of Fairfield. He has been active in business and political circles of Fairfield and is widely known throughout the county as a representative citizen. On the 23d of May, 1881, in the county in which he now resides his birth occurred, his parents being J. B. and Anna (Forst) Massie, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Bohemia.

D. B. Massie was a pupil in the schools of Fairfield and after graduating from the high school took a course in a business college. For several years he was a stenographer but at the end of that time entered into the real estate and insurance business on his own account. He was active in that connection for seventeen years and achieved more than a substantial amount of success. Mr. Massie entered the World war on the 28th of August, 1917, and was sent immediately to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, later being sent to Camp Pike, Arkansas, and received his discharge on the 7th of December, 1918.

In 1915 occurred the marriage of Mr. Massie and Miss Allie Lee, a native of Clay county and a daughter of J. T. and Levina Lee, the former a native of Iowa

and the latter of Ohio. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Massie, one child Leila has been born. She is now four years of age.

Mr. Massie gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is a firm believer in the principle of that party as factors in good government. For fourteen years he served as police judge and was on the city board for some time. He likewise served his fellowmen as city treasurer. Fraternally he is identified with the Masons and is past master of Fairfield lodge. During his entire life Mr. Massie has made his home in Clay county, where he has many friends who appreciate his true personal worth and have watched his successful career with great interest.

JOHN S. LOGAN

Dependent entirely upon his own resources from an early age, John S. Logan is today occupying an enviable position among the farmers of Clay county, his holdings being in township 5, range 7 W., section 34. He was born in Pike county, Illinois, in January, 1871, a son of Daniel S. and Alta (McFall) Logan, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. Their marriage occurred in Illinois, where both located as young people and where the father followed farming for the greater part of his life. Mr. Logan went to Kansas to get a piece of land and was taken suddenly ill and died there in 1873. His death came as a severe shock to his many friends. He was a veteran of the Civil war, having at first enlisted in a military company from Pennsylvania and later was transferred to the cavalry under Sheridan. He was wounded several times and taken prisoner and was mustered out as second lieutenant. Mrs. Logan is still living at the age of seventy-two years and makes her home with John S., the only child born to that union. Her husband was a stanch supporter of the republican party and both were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The death of John S. Logan's father occurred when our subject was but two years of age and his education was obtained by his own determined effort. He attended the country schools of his native state and later entered a commercial school at Atchison, Kansas. He was determined to make a success of life and soon after putting his textbooks aside removed to Nebraska, locating in Alma in 1882. He immediately accepted a position as clerk and followed that occupation in connection with farming until he was appointed deputy county treasurer of Harland county, at the age of eighteen years. In 1891 he moved to Hastings, where for five years he practiced law in the county attorney's office and acted as court reporter for eight years and in 1901, having saved considerable money, bought some land in Clay county onto which he moved in 1905. He is now residing on that half section, which has been brought to a highly cultivated state and is recognized as one of the finest homes in the county and there he raises full blooded stock, Poland China hogs, Shropshire sheep, shorthorn cattle and White Wyandotte chickens.

In 1891 occurred the marriage of Mr. Logan and Miss Minnie Beall, a native of Stark county, Illinois, and a daughter of Thomas and Ophelia (Bush) Beall, both natives of Kentucky. They came to Illinois at an early day, where the father became known as a prominent and progressive farmer and stockman and in later life they

removed to Nebraska. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bush passed away in Alma and there they are buried. Eleven children were born to them, ten of whom are living. Mrs. Logan was the ninth in order of birth. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Logan four children have been born: Leah, who is the wife of Floyd East of Memphis, Tennessee, one of the highest salaried insurance men in the south, having four states under his jurisdiction; Pauline and John, at home; and Margaret in school. The son took an agricultural course in Lincoln and both older daughters are graduates of the Fairfield high school and attended Wesleyan College.

For some years Mr. Logan gave his support to the democratic party but he now follows an independent course, voting for the man he thinks most suited to the office. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church and fraternally he is a Knight of Pythias, a Woodman and is past vice chancellor of the lodge at Hastings. He established the D. O. K. K. lodge at Hastings and takes a prominent part in its activities. Although the greater part of Mr. Logan's time has been devoted to his business interests he has served his fellowmen as county judge, an office to which he was appointed for one year and which he administered so satisfactorily that he was reelected for two other terms, making five years' service in that connection. It was on the termination of his duties in that office that he took up farming. Mr. Logan has a private market for the greater part of his stock and at stock shows he has been well represented and carried off several premiums. To the promotion of agricultural interests he devotes a large part of his time and money and in the activities of the Farm Bureau he takes a prominent part. He has been a dominant factor in the organizing of such bureaus in Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Kimball and Banner counties, which work required a period of four months. Thrown upon his own resources at an early age Mr. Logan has learned his lessons in the school of experience and his life illustrates that it is under the pressure of adversity and the stimulus of necessity that the strongest and best in men is brought out and developed.

NELS HANSEN

To men and women who came from the fair Norseland has Nebraska owed a generous measure of her industrial development and progress, and the late Nels Hansen, who was born in Denmark in the year 1847, was a sterling citizen who did well his part in the development of the natural resources of Hamilton county, where he established his home in the middle-pioneer period and where he achieved substantial prosperity through his constructive association with farm enterprise. His primary ambition was to provide well for his family, that his wife and children might be assured of stable prosperity, and he gave to his children the best possible advantages. He was a man of superior intelligence, marked energy and inflexible integrity, and he was one of the well known and honored pioneer citizens and representative farmers of Otis township at the time of his death, on the 18th of April, 1916.

Mr. Hansen was reared and educated in his native land and was twenty years of age when he came to the United States. A close observer and appre-



NELS HANSEN AND FAMILY

ciative of travel and varied experience, he visited various states of the Union within the early period of his residence in this country, but after establishing his home in Nebraska never wavered in his loyalty to and appreciation of this progressive commonwealth. By his own labors he had accumulated six hundred dollars when he initiated his career as an independent farmer in Hamilton county, his possessions at that time including also a good team of horses and a small supply of farm implements and machinery. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 10, Otis township, the place having been entered previously as a homestead but it had run down. Its only buildings were a sod house and sod stable, and he and his wife occupied the sod house for three years, until he felt justified in erecting an excellent frame house on the farm. The first year he raised a crop of corn on his land and with the passing years he developed its agricultural resources to the utmost, besides being successful in the raising of live stock. He made good improvements on his farm and gradually added to its area, with the result that at the time of his death he was the owner of a valuable farm of four hundred acres, which is retained in the possession of his widow, who here continues to maintain her home and who has shown marked ability in the management of the property and incidental business affairs.

In Hamilton county, in the year 1881, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hansen to Miss Kirstine Anderson, who was born in Denmark in 1859, and who was twenty years old when she came to the United States, and passed one year in Wisconsin before coming to Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Hansen became the parents of three children: Marie, Laura and John. The daughters are at home with their mother. John is married and living on the other farm.

Mr. Hansen took intelligent interest in public affairs, especially those of local order. He was an earnest communicant of the Danish Lutheran church as are also his widow and children.

SWAN N. PETERSON

Swan N. Peterson, who at the time of his death was prominently engaged in dealing in live stock in Hamilton county, passed away October 9, 1920, when sixty-one years of age. He was born in Sweden, June 10, 1859. He remained a resident of his native country during the period of his minority, and then went to Chicago, Illinois, where he later became a resident and was employed as a contractor with the Pullman Company for a number of years. In 1884 he with his brother John came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where they continued building and contracting for a number of years. Later they invested in land and other property and also engaged in buying and selling live stock. They owned and operated the first threshing machine in Hamilton county. In 1910 Swan N. Peterson with his family removed to Aurora, still continuing to deal in live stock, of which he was an excellent judge, and his investments were most judiciously made.

In 1887 Mr. Peterson was married to Miss Emma Nordgren, who came to the

United States at the age of fifteen years. For many years she was a resident of Chicago. In 1885 she came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, residing with her brother, John G. Nordgren, until the time of her marriage to Mr. Peterson. Six children were born to them: Mrs. Robert Lamberton, now a resident of Norfolk, Virginia; Mrs. Harry Berggren, of Bayard, Nebraska; Eleanor, at home; Mrs. C. O. Thomas, of Omaha, Nebraska; Mrs. L. E. Pearce, of Des Moines, Iowa; and one daughter who died in infancy.

Mr. Peterson was a member of the Swedish Mission church of Aurora. In politics he was a republican, always voting for the men and measures he thought worthy. He took a most active interest in the work of the church and for more than twenty-five years served as Sunday school superintendent, realizing fully the value of training for the young and doing all in his power to instill into their minds principles which would remain with them in later years. He was devoted to the welfare of his family and found his greatest happiness at his own fireside. His sterling worth was widely recognized by all who knew him, and everywhere he was held in high regard. The family still own the old homestead.

JAMES A. KNUTSON

Energy and diligence, intelligently directed, always result in success and these qualities have been crowning features in the life work of James A. Knutson, who is now a retired farmer of Clay Center, resting from further labor in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. He was born in Norway, December 11, 1855, and is a son of Knute and Ingber (Jacobson) Knutson, who spent their entire lives in the land of the midnight sun. The father was a prosperous farmer and both he and his wife were consistent members of the Lutheran church. They became the parents of fifteen children and James A., the youngest of the family, was but a babe when his parents passed away.

James A. Knutson, moreover, is the only representative of the family in the United States. He acquired a common school education in Norway and afterward learned the shoemaker's trade, but thinking to find business opportunities greater in the new world he crossed the Atlantic and in November, 1876, arrived in Illinois. There he worked by the month as a farm hand for a time, for he owed for his passage to America. In 1878 he arrived in Clay county and worked by the month as a farm hand for several years. He resided for three years in Adams county, Nebraska, and it was there, in 1889, that he was united in marriage to Miss Kathrine Backlund, who was born in Sweden and came to the United States about 1886. It was in the year 1901 that Mr. Knutson purchased his first farm, acquiring two hundred and forty acres of land upon which were no improvements. He erected a frame dwelling and good outbuildings and continued to develop and improve his farm until 1917, when he left that place and removed to Clay Center. In addition to cultivating the crops best adapted to soil and climatic conditions he also raised stock when upon his farm and this constituted an important source of income

to him. He has a nice modern residence in Clay Center and has retired altogether from active business.

As the years passed on Mr. and Mrs. Knutson became the parents of six children: Carl, who is living on a farm in Colorado; Olga Elizabeth, the wife of Bert Parker, who occupies her father's farm; Cora and Esther, twins, both in the employ of J. H. Eller, a leading general merchant of Clay Center; Frank, who is also in the employ of J. H. Eller & Company; and Julia, a school teacher.

Mr. and Mrs. Knutson are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he belongs also to the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics he maintains an independent course, voting for men and measures rather than party. Those who know him, and he has a wide acquaintance, esteem him as a man of genuine worth who has been most progressive in his business affairs and by industry and reliability has won his success.

JACOB BRAUSTITRE

Jacob Braustitre of Edgar has devoted his entire life to agricultural pursuits since making his initial step in the business world. He was born in Clark county, Ohio, in 1834, a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Baker) Braustitre, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the later of Virginia. Their marriage occurred in Pennsylvania and they removed to Ohio at an early day. In 1847 they went to Illinois and there the death of Mrs. Braustitre occurred. The father then removed to Nebraska and made his home with a son until death. Throughout his life he had followed the blacksmith trade and had achieved a substantial amount of success. Twelve chidlren were born to that union, six boys and six girls, three of whom are now living: Jacob, whose name initiates this review; Letitia, who is the wife of J. Mallory and lives in Nemaha county; and Daniel, a retired farmer who is engaged in blacksmithing and carpentering in Illinois. Daniel Braustitre was a stanch supporter of the democratic party and took an active interest in the local affairs of his community.

Jacob Braustitre is indebted to the schools of Illinois for his education. In August of the year 1862 he enlisted for service in the Civil war becoming a member of Co. C, One Hundred and Sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry with which he served for over three and one-half years. His regiment was a part of the western army and he partcipated in many of the important battles and skirmishes of the conflict. After the close of the war he returned to Illinois by way of Missouri and began to farm. He was engaged in that connection there until 1876 when he came to Nuckolls county and purchased two hundred and forty acres of railroad land, then in an entirely uncultivated state. He built a home sixteen by twenty-four feet and there resided until 1910 when he removed to Edgar. He still owns his farm which is one of the finest in the county and he is widely recognized as an agriculturist of ability.

On the 30th of June, 1867, Mr. Braustitre was united in marriage to Miss C. G. Wiley, a native of Illinois and to them seven children were born, four of whom are living: Francis, who is residing on his father's farm John W. and Charles

Henry, also on the home place; and Fay, who is the wife of W. H. Hayden. The demise of Mrs. Braustitre occurred on the 25th of May, 1897, and in 1902 Mr. Braustitre was again married, this time to Mrs. Rosina Gunn, nee Perry, a native of Clay county and a daughter of Henry H. and Emily (Hurlbert) Perry, the former a native of Ohio while the latter was born in New York state. Her parents came to Nebraska and settled in Clay county in 1872, where they acquired a homestead. Subsequently they removed to Furman and there resided until death. Four children have been born to the first marriage: Newton P. Gunn, who is residing in Oxford, was in the national guard for four years, served in the World war for twenty months, four months of which time was spent abroad where he contracted smallpox and was one of the first to be returned to this county; Catherine Gunn, who is employed in Burlington, Colorado; Beulah, who is the wife of Ed Post, a barber of Burlington, Colorado; and Leonard Gunn, a farmer of near Oxford.

Mr. Braustitre has always given his political allegiance to the republican party, in the interests of which he takes an active part. Both he and his wife are consistent and prominent members of the Presbyterian church and he is also identified with the Grand Army of the Republic. When Mr. Braustitre first came to Nebraska he had little more than one thousand dollars which he invested with much thought and insight and as result of those characteristics and of his own determined effort he is now residing in Edgar, financially independent an honored, respected and representative citizen.

FREDERICK W. FALMLEN

Character and achievement constitute the standard by which a man's value to the world is gauged, and the late Frederick W. Falmlen measured up to the best standard both in personal attributes and in the work which he accomplished. He was a boy when he came to Nebraska and his parents were numbered among the early settlers of this state, where he was reared on a farm and gained plenty of youthful experience.

Mr. Falmlen was born at Atlanta, Illinois, April 20, 1878, and was six years of age when he accompanied his parents to the Nebraska farm, where he was reared to manhood and was afforded the advantages of the common schools of the period. Upon coming to Hamilton county Mr. Falmlen settled in Deepwell township and in this township eventually became the owner of a valuable farm property of two hundred and forty acres, which he equipped with good buildings and other high grade improvements and which he made the stage of vigorous and progressive agricultural and live stock enterprise. His energy and good management brought to him a generous measure of prosperity and he won high place in popular confidence and respect in the county that long represented his home. In the live stock department of his farm industry he gave special attention to the feeding of cattle, hogs and sheep, and each year shipped several carloads of stock from his farm. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and he took an intelligent and loyal interest in all things pertaining to the wellbeing of his home community and county. He has no ambition for public office but gave a term of service as

school director of his district. He was one of the honored citizens of the county at the time of his death, on the 4th of June, 1920, and his widow has since rented the farm and established her home in the city of Grand Island.

On the 21st of June, 1905, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Falmlen to Miss Margaret Ennis, who survives him, as do also their three children, Raymond, Grant and Martin.

WILLIAM WOLFE

William Wolfe, whose demise occurred in Clay county on the 25th of May, 1904, was for a number of years successfully engaged in farming in the county. He was born in Bohemia on the 6th of August, 1838, and remained in his native land until 1872.

William Wolfe was thirty-four years of age when he came to this country and he first located in Detroit, Michigan, where he worked for the Peninsular car shop for two years. He then came to Nebraska and located in Clay county and he bought eighty acres of land for one hundred and forty dollars. His first home on the land was a dugout but later he built a sod house. His success along agricultural lines seemed assured from the start and later he purchased eighty acres which is at present in the possession of his daughter, Mrs. John Zdychnec. He lived in Clay county until his demise, at which time he owned fifteen hundred and thirty acres of fine land. He was a self-made man having reached the goal of success solely as the result of his own determined effort intelligently directed, and a deep feeling of bereavement swept the community at his passing.

In 1862 Mr. Wolfe was married to Miss Catherine Vetove and to them ten children were born, nine of whom are living: Albert, a resident of Clay county; William, who makes his home in Clay county; Anna, who is the wife of John Zdychnec, further mention of whom will be made in this sketch; Frank, who resides near Clay Center; George, residing near Edgar; Henry and Benjamin living near Clay Center; Nellie, who is the wife of Lewis Kavalec, a real estate man of Brainard; and Adolph, a retired farmer residing in Brainard. Throughout his life Mr. Wolfe was a consistent member of the Catholic church and was a generous contributor to its various charitable organizations. He was a man whom to know was to esteem and honor and his sterling characteristics won him the friendship and regard of a large circle of acquaintances.

In 1895 Anna Wolfe was united in marriage to John Zdychnec, a native of Bohemia who came to the United States on the 14th of February, 1894. Ever since arriving in this country Mr. Zdychnec has followed farming and he owns one hundred and sixty acres of fine land in the county, where he is recognized as a successful and prominent agriculturist. Mrs. Zdychnec is also in possession of a one hundred and sixty acre tract which she inherited from her father's estate. Four children have been born to their union: Emily, who received her education in the Fairfield high school, attended Kearney Normal School, taught for three years in a town school, and is at present a stenographer for an insurance company at Lincoln; Joseph, who is cashier of the State Bank at Republican City, is a graduate of a

Grand Island Business College and the second youngest bank cashier in Nebraska, being but twenty-three years of age; William, who is in business college at Lincoln; and Marie, attending the grade schools of Clay Center. The religious faith of the Zdychnec family is that of the Catholic church and the father is a stanch supporter of the republican party. Mr. and Mrs. Zdychnec are popular with all who know them and are regarded as representative citizens of Clay county.

Mrs. Wolfe, the widow, who is seventy-nine years of age, is making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Anna Zdychnec. Mrs. Wolfe always worked hard at home as well as in the field with her husband. She is a well preserved woman and is in good health.

HARTZELL MARTIN

Hartzell Martin, a retired farmer of Fairfield, was born in Athens county, Ohio, June 30, 1844, a son of Jacob and Mary (McVay) Martin, both natives of Ohio, in which state the latter passed away. In 1865 Jacob Martin removed to Illinois and there engaged in farming until his death. He had also followed that line of work in Ohio. Mr. Martin was twice married and had eight children by his first wife and seven children by his second wife. Throughout his life he was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church and his political allegiance was given the republican party. The paternal ancestors were from England and came to this country at an early day.

Hartzell Martin received his education in the district schools of Ohio and entered the Union army as a member of Company C, Thirtieth Ohio Regiment in 1861, being then but seventeen years of age. For four years he was a member of the "fighting regiment," a name it rightly earned, and he lost many comrades. He was in the battle at Laurel Creek and Little Birch, Virginia; South Mountain and Antietam, Maryland; Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi; Mission Ridge, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Ezra Chapel, Jonesboro, Bentonville, and many other battles of importance. At the close of the war he returned to Ohio and was there married in 1881. In 1895 he removed to Clay county from Furnas county, where he had homesteaded in 1879 and where for two or three years he had lived, hauling lumber a distance of seventy-five miles in order to erect a frame dwelling to accommodate his family. For some time he was in possession of a farm in Clay county and Nuckolls county but later disposed of them. He is now living retired in Fairfield enjoying a well earned rest, the result of a life of activity.

Mr. Martin has been twice married. His first wife was Sarah J. Hanning, who was born in Athens county, Ohio, and died in 1880. Three children were born to that union: Katrina, who is the wife of Tom McMann of Shenandoah, Iowa, a retired farmer; and Orill, a well known minister of the Methodist church, who has had charge of many large churches throughout Nebraska and is at present located at Seattle; Ai W. died at the age of twenty-nine years. He was an attorney at law. In 1881, Mr. Martin was again married, choosing Rebecca Hart for his wife. She was also a native of Athens county, and a daughter of David and Rebecca (Wheatherly) Hart, both natives of New Jersey. Her parents were married in that state but removed soon afterward to Ohio, where they both resided

until death. Mr. Hart was twice married and had fourteen children by his first wife and six by his second. There are five living that were born to the first union and four of the second union. Mr. Hart lived to see his large family all grown to manhood and womanhood and established in homes of their own. To the second marriage of Mr. Martin two children have been born: Roy David, a physician and surgeon at Hastings; and Glenn, in the bank at Edgar.

Mr. Martin has always given his political allegiance to the republican party, in the interests of which he has always taken an active part, although he has neither sought nor desired public office. His religious faith is that of the Christian church and he is fraternally identified with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is likewise active in the Grand Army of the Republic and has been for a number of terms commander of his camp. Mr. and Mrs. Martin are highly respected and representative citizens of Fairfield and Clay county and their home is the meeting place for a large circle of friends. Although they spend the greater part of their time at home they travel extensively at times and last winter visited in Mississippi.

HENRY KOEHLER

An excellent farm property in Clay county pays tribute to the care and labor bestowed upon it by Henry Koehler, recognized as one of the representative agricultruists and one of the oldest polled shorthorn breeders in his section of the state. The land is located on sction 32, Edgar township. Mr. Koehler was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, on the 21st of April, 1851, a son of Christian and Sophia (Baden) Koehler, both natives of that country. The mother passed away there but in 1876 the father came to the United States and located in Iowa, from which state he subsequently removed to Oregon, where his death occurred. Five children were born to their union, four of whom are living: Henry, whose name initiates this review; William, living in Oregon; Kate, a widow and a resident of Hastings; and Mary, residing in Iowa. The parents were consistent members of the Lutheran church, in which faith their family was reared.

Henry Koehler received his education in Germany, where he remained until 1868, when he came to the United States alone. He located in Scott county, Iowa, and obtained work on farms, continuing in that connection until September 13, 1874. In that year his marriage took place and he lived on a rented place until 1886. In June, 1885, he came to Clay county, Nebraska, and bought two hundred acres of land, to which land he removed with his family in February, 1886. He bought his land on the installment plan and was so successful in its operation that he soon purchased an additional forty acres, which was part of timber claim No. 1. Mr. Koehler and his children now own six hundred acres of fine land in Clay county. He engages in mixed farming, raises pure blooded cattle and is one of the oldest polled shorthorn breeders in Clay county. His sons are also widely known for their fine horses of the Percheron breed and among them they have one fine animal imported from France.

On the 13th of September, 1874, occurred the marriage of Mr. Koehler and Miss Amelia Lehms, a native of Iowa and a daughter of Fred Lehms, who was born

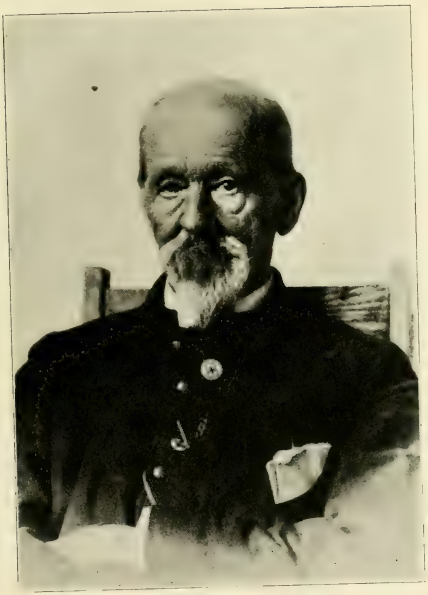
in Germany and came to the United States, locating in Iowa in 1854, where his demise took place. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Koehler: Sophia, John Henry and Louis, all at home; and a daughter who died in infancy.

Mr. Koehler has always given his allegiance to the democratic party, having firm belief in the efficacy of the principles of that party as factors in good government. He served on the town board for some time and also as assessor for several years. Thrown upon his own resources at an early age he learned his lessons in the school of experience and his life illustrates that it is under the pressure of adversity and the stimulus of necessity that the strongest and best in men is brought out and developed. His labors have brought him success, and he has thoroughly identified his interests with those of his community and can be counted upon to do his part in furthering the public welfare.

JOEL H. SAULS

Joel H. Sauls, was equipped for and exerted much of leadership in community sentiment and action during the pioneer period in the history of Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he was numbered among the early teachers in the primitive schools and where also he had definite alliance with pioneer farm enterprise. In later years he was a successful practitioner of law and in all relations of his active and worthy life he commanded unqualified popular esteem. He was a citizen of prominence and influence in Hamilton county and here a wide circle of friends and admirers manifested a sense of personal loss and bereavement when his life came to a close on February 7th, 1920.

Mr. Sauls was born in Carroll county, Tennessee, on the 22d of November, 1837, and thus he was eighty-four years of age at the time of his death. He was a boy when his father, Thomas E. Sauls, transferred the family residence from Tennessee to Missouri, where Joel Sauls received excellent educational advantages in the schools at Granbury and the academy at Newtonia. He became a successful teacher in the schools of Illinois, in which state he was residing at the time of the Civil war. He was a loyal supporter of the Union and manifested this by enlisting in Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he continued in service four months, being stationed at Rock Island, Illinois, and assigned to duty in guarding prisoners of war. After the close of the war, Mr. Sauls continued his service as a teacher in the schools of Illinois until 1873, in which year he came to Nebraska and numbered himself among the pioneer settlers of Hamilton county. His marriage was solemnized in Missouri prior to the outbreak of the Civil war and his Union sympathies and fearless utterances created no little antagonism in the section of Missouri in which he and his wife were living, the result being that they found it expedient to make their way to Illinois. They had to abandon their household goods and other belongings and set forth with a horse and buggy for Illinois, the trip being hazardous on account of the menace of Confederate sympathizers and the only period in which Mr. and



JOEL H. SAULS

Mrs. Sauls felt perfectly safe on the journey was when they camped for a short time with the army forces under command of General Sigel.

In coming from Illinois to Nebraska, Mr. Sauls and his wife made the trip with a team and covered wagon and a month was required to complete the journey, crossing the Missouri river on a ferry-boat at White Cloud, Kansas. Upon arriving in Hamilton county Mr. Sauls took a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres, in what is now Valley precinct, and his first house was a combination of dugout and sod construction, the roof being covered with grass and brush. The floor was of earth and each of the two windows provided for the little habitation was of but half-sash dimensions. With a horse team Mr. Sauls succeeded in breaking all of his land and also planted a goodly number of native trees on the place. Finally he traded his homestead for another farm in the same precinct, the latter place having been improved with a frame house and barn. Mr. Sauls did not escape his share of losses caused by drought, grasshoppers, hailstorms, etc. His services were enlisted in teaching in the pioneer rural schools and after Hampton was established, he became one of the first teachers in the school opened in that village. He arrived in Hamilton county too late to put in a crop the first year and under these conditions found employment on another pioneer farm for a time. On two different occasions grasshoppers destroyed the garden and growing corn on the Sauls farm. Mr. Sauls obtained most of his early fuel from trees growing along the course of the Platte river, besides which it was found necessary at times to use corn and cornstalks for fuel purposes. Grists were taken to the Seeley mill in York county. Near the prairie home of Mr. Sauls he frequently saw antelopes and deer and on one occasion espied four buffaloes wending their way across the prairie.

At Granby, Missouri, on the 18th of November, 1860, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Sauls to Miss Rachel Alford, who was born in Monroe county, Tennessee, and who was one of the loved pioneer women of Hamilton county, Nebraska, and is now living in Aurora, Nebraska. She has lived to see five generations of her family in the nation's military service. Of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Sauls the eldest is Mary J., who resides in Aurora, Hamilton county, and is the widow of Riley E. Mason, an honored and influential citizen, whose death occurred in 1909; Nellie is the widow of Joseph H. Edmondson and maintains her home in Aurora; Sarah died nearly forty years ago; William E. died in 1909; Minnie, deceased, became the wife of Frank E. Quinn; John L. resides at Aurora; Frederick died in infancy, in 1879; and Grace is the wife of Samuel Belcher, of Los Angeles, California. To Mrs. Mary J. Mason the publishers of this history are indebted for much of the data utilized in preparing this memorial tribute to her honored father.

From the beginning of his residence in Hamilton county Mr. Sauls manifested a lively and helpful interest in communal affairs and became influential along many lines. He served as justice of the peace and represented Hamilton county as a delegate to the state constitutional convention. After leaving the farm he was engaged in the practice of law at Hampton, and in 1898 removed to Aurora, the county seat, where he continued in the practice of law during the remainder of his active career. He was a stalwart and effective advocate of

the principles and policies of the republican party and was a leader in its councils and campaign activities in Hamilton county. He and his wife were zealous members of the Baptist church and were numbered among the organizers of the first church of this denomination in Hamilton county. He maintained affiliation with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows from 1868 until his death and also was an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

E. J. HAINER

E. J. Hainer was born August 16, 1851, at Funfkirchen, Hungary, and with his parents emigrated to the United States in 1854. The family settled at New Buda, Iowa, the seat of the Hungarian Colony. He was educated in Iowa, attending the Academy at Garden Grove, the Iowa State College, at Ames, and the Law School at Des Moines, graduating from the latter institution in 1876, beginning the practice of law in 1877 at Aurora, Nebraska. He remained there until 1894, when he removed to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he has since continued to reside and engage in the practice of his profession. In 1892 he was elected to congress from the Fourth District of Nebraska as a republican, remaining in that office for four years. His principal business has all along been that of a lawyer, though he has developed considerable activity and interest in banking, farming and other industries.

PETER BOYD

Since 1879 Peter Boyd has engaged in farming in Clay county, where he is recognized as a leading and progressive agriculturist. Like many other prominent and successful men of Clay county he is a son by adoption, his birth having occurred in La Grange county, Indiana, on the 14th of June, 1848, a son of James and Catherine (Engle) Boyd, both natives of Pennsylvania. Their marriage occurred in Ohio and at an early date they removed to Indiana, where they resided during the remainder of their lives. Throughout his life the father engaged in farming, in which occupation he achieved more than a substantial amount of success. Fourteen children were born to their union, ten of whom are living, Peter being the ninth in order of birth. The religious faith of the parents was that of the Dunkard church and the father was a stanch supporter of the democratic party. Two brothers of Peter Boyd, John and Carey, were soldiers of the Civil war, serving throughout that conflict. They participated in some of the most important battles of the war and were with Sherman on his march to the sea.

In the acquirement of an education Peter Boyd attended the country schools of La Grange county, Indiana, and after putting his textbooks aside engaged in farming. After residing for a time in Iowa, he came to Clay county, Nebraska, in 1879, and bought one hundred and sixty acres of raw land which he broke and on which a small frame house was standing when it came into his possession. He brought with him from Iowa three horses, one cow and two pigs and also some household

goods. He made the trip by train as far as Harvard. The neighborhood in which he located was at that time but sparsely settled and he underwent all of the pioneer hardships but allowed nothing to stand in his way, every misfortune only serving to drive him to greater effort, until he was recognized as a successful farmer. He bought an additional one hundred and sixty acres, which he brought to a high state of cultivation and still owns together with the original tract.

In 1871 occurred the marriage of Mr. Boyd and Miss Adelaide Fish, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Eugene Fish, an early settler of Iowa, where he lived until his death. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd ten children have been born: Earl, a graduate of the Fairfield high school and of a medical school in Lincoln, and now a prominent physician and surgeon of Central City; Alonzo, a farmer of Furnas county; Mabel, the wife of William Heller, a garage man of Westphalia, Kansas; Jesse, a farmer of Polk county, Nebraska; Cora, who is the wife of J. Y. Smith, a rancher of Wood Lake; Fred, farming in Frontier county; Ernest, also farming in Frontier county; Ray, who lives on his father's farm; Ora, farming in Clay county; and Frank, residing at home.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Boyd the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democraic party, in the interests of which he has taken an active part. The religious faith of the family is that of the Christian church. Mr. Boyd has always done general farming, raising some hogs and cattle, and his ability and success as an agriculturist is readily conceded. He is always interested in the development and improvement of the community and his undivided support may be relied upon in furthering any movement for the general welfare.

NELS NELSON

Sweden has contributed to Nebraska many successful agriculturists and Nels Nelson, who since 1902 has been living a life of retirement, is no exception. He is a resident of Verona, where he is numbered among the most progressive and representative citizens.

Nels Nelson was born in Sweden on the 19th of March, 1847, and in the spring of 1869 came to the United States. He first located in Illinois, where he worked out for two years and then spent the following two years in farming on his own account. In 1872, however, he came west and settled in Nebraska, making the trip in a covered wagon and being accompanied by two families. He homesteaded on section 26 and thereon built a small frame house. He had a span of small horses which he used to break the ground and soon had his land in a fine state of cultivation. At that time the vicinity was not very thickly populated, there being but four houses between his home and Sutton and there were no dwellings west of his place until the town of Fairfield was reached. Mr. Nelson had very little money when he arrived in the county and it was a year and a half before he got any crops, but he was more fortunate that many of the early settlers and soon had his land upon a paying basis. At one time Mr. Nelson was in possession of fifteen hundred and twenty acres of fine improved land and was ranked among the foremost agriculturists of the surrounding country.

In 1869 Mr. Nelson was united in marriage to Miss Anna Johnson, their marriage having occurred in Sweden, and to them nine children were born: Fred Nelson, who is living in Omaha; Henry of California; John, residing in Clay county; Carl, whose death occurred in August, 1918, at the age of forty-four years; Albert, who is living in Kansas; Emma Hember of Clay county; Minnie of Clay county; and two other children, both deceased. The death of Mrs. Nelson occurred on the 25th of December, 1918, and came as a severe shock to her family and many friends. Throughout her life she was a consistent member of the Baptist church.

In 1902 Mr. Nelson removed from the farm and is now residing in Verona, living a life of ease and quiet. He has been prominent in the activities of the community and for twelve years was a member of the school board. His life has been one of industry and diligence and he is justly entitled to the proud American title of self-made man.

U. G. McREYNOLDS

U. G. McReynolds was for many years a well known figure in the agricultural circles of Clay county and his demise on July 20, 1920, came as a severe shock to his many friends in the community. Like many other prominent agriculturists of Clay county he was a son by adoption, his birth having occurred in Illinois on the 1st of July, 1862, a son of A. F. and Margaret (Minnick) McReynolds, both natives of Virginia, where the birth of the latter occurred June 27, 1826. Their marriage was celebrated in Indiana in 1849 and they removed to Iowa in 1854 and here they remained until 1881 and then came to Nebraska and located in Nuckolls county. A. F. McReynolds later retired from active life and moved into Fairfield, his death occurring there on the 28th of April, 1911. Mrs. McReynolds passed away January 9, 1909. Eight children were born to that union: Joseph, deceased; Mrs. Esther A. Tweed, a widow of Fairfield; Moses W., a druggist of Beattie, Kansas; Aaron W., a druggist of Omaha; Minerva C. Smith, deceased; Mrs. A. M. Conrad of Hastings; U. G., whose name initiates this review; and Margaret I. Mattox of Ames. Both Mr. and Mrs. McReynolds were consistent members of the Christian church, Mrs. McReynolds having been baptized in 1850.

In the acquirement of an education U. G. McReynolds attended the schools of Iowa and later entered a college at Fairfield, that state, and completed a course. Soon afterward he came to Nebraska and located at Fairfield, accepting a clerkship in the store of a Mr. Tweed. In later years he started out into business on his own account and conducted a feed store for some time with success. He then wrote insurance and for five years was a member of the Fairfield fire department. He also served for one term as constable. Mr. McReynolds became a well known figure in Fairfield and the surrounding vicinity and had many friends who appreciated his true personal worth and many sterling traits of character.

On the 1st of January, 1885, Mr. McReynolds was married to Miss Anna Nixon, a native Ohio, and a daughter of Jonas P. and Mary (McFadden) Nixon, both natives of that state. They were married in Ohio and in 1872 came to Nebraska and located in Clay county, where Mr. Nixon took up a homestead in the northwest

corner of that county. He resided on the homestead until he was elected sheriff of Clay county, which office he held for four years. At the termination of that time he removed to Fairfield and engaged in the real estate business, which he followed until his death. Six children were born to that union, four of whom are living: Mrs. McReynolds; Mrs. Belle Moore of Fairfield; James W., engaged in the harness business at Smith Center, Kansas; and Joseph E., who is engaged in the real estate business. Both Mr. and Mrs. Nixon were consistent members of the Christian church and he was a veteran of the Civil war. He enlisted in the Seventieth Ohio Regiment in 1861 and served throughout the war with the commission of lieutenant. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. McReynolds, three of whom are living: Ira, a café owner of Albany, Oregon; Ernest R., employed in a depot in Fairfield, entered service in the World war in June, 1917, was with the Rainbow division in France and Germany, served in Company A, wireless, as non-commissioned corporal and received his discharge on the 7th of May, 1919; and Elmo, who runs a cleaning plant at Fairfield.

The religious faith of Mr. McReynolds was that of the Christian church and he was a charter member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. The life of Mr. McReynolds was a busy and useful one and his death on the 20th of July, 1920, removed from Fairfield one of her most progressive and respected citizens. Mrs. McReynolds has engaged in dressmaking for a number of years and has an exclusive and extensive patronage. She is also fitter for Spirilla corsets. She is a business woman of ability and has gained the respect of all who know her.

EDMUND A. STEENBURG, M. D.

For more than a third of a century Dr. Edmund A. Steenburg has engaged in practice in Aurora and has long been the loved family physician in many a household where his professional services have been of the greatest value. Doctor Steenburg is of Canadian birth, the place of his nativity being Frankford, Ontario, while the year was 1865. His parents were Benjamin and Isabelle (Sills) Steenburg, both of whom were natives of Ontario, born near Toronto. In that locality they spent their entire lives, the father devoting himself to the occupation of farming in order to provide for the support of his family. To Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Steenburg were born four children, of whom three are living: Alwolda, the widow of Stephen A. Simmons and a resident of Vancouver, British Columbia; Elizabeth Esther, the widow of H. J. Scripture and a resident of Brighton, Ontario; and Edmund A., of this review. In early life the mother was a member of the Dutch Reformed church, but later both Mr. and Mrs. Steenburg joined the Methodist church and lived consistent Christian lives.

Doctor Steenburg was educated in the schools of Ontario and pursued his professional course in Rush Medical College of Chicago, from which he was graduated with the class of 1887. He determined to remain on this side of the border that separated him from his native country and in the spring of 1887 established his home in Aurora, where he has since remained. Throughout the intervening years he has engaged in general practice and does considerable surgical work. He is very

careful in the diagnosis of his cases and most systematic and accurate in his surgical work. His entire professional activity is based upon a thorough knowledge of the scientific principles that underlie the profession and at all times he has kept in close touch with the trend of professional thought and progress. He is also a stockholder in the First Trust Company of Aurora and is serving as vice president.

In 1889 Doctor Steenburg was married to Miss Minnie Moore, a native of Missouri and a daughter of James Moore, who came to Aurora in 1879 and conducted a livery barn. To Dr. and Mrs. Steenburg have been born two sons: The elder, Donald Benjamin, was graduated with the Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska and with the M. D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania, completing his course in the latter institution in 1913. He then entered upon active practice with his father following an interneship at the University of Pennsylvania. He saw service in France during the World war with the Harvard unit. The younger son, Edmund K., completed a course in the University of Nebraska with the Bachelor of Arts degree and then entered Harvard, within the classic walls of which institution he was graduated in 1917. He, too, had qualified for the medical profession and entered upon active practice in connection with his father, who is today the oldest physician of Hamilton county in years of continuous connection with the profession. The name of Steenburg has ever been an honored one because of the high standards maintained by father and sons in connection with their practice. Doctor Steenburg is a York Rite Mason and his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. Politically he is a republican and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but has never sought nor desired political office. He belongs to the Hamilton County Medical Society, the Nebraska State Medical Association and the American Medical Association and is now the president of the first named. All who know him speak of him in terms of high regard and his service to his community has been an invaluable one.

JOHN A. BISHOFF

John A. Bishoff, who passed away July 12, 1900, was highly respected by his friends and associates and for many years was identified with the agricultural development of his adopted state, in which he resided at the time of his death. He was born in Baden, Germany, December 27, 1832, a son of Michael and Christine Bishoff, also natives of Germany. There his parents resided all their lives and his father achieved a great amount of success as a distiller.

John A. Bishoff received his education in the schools of his native country and came to the United States in 1849. He worked on the boats from St. Louis for a number of years and subsequently answered the call of the west and located in Grand Island, Nebraska, in the late '60s. For some time he resided in that place, engaging in chopping and selling wood but in 1871 removed to Clay county, where he took up a homestead and for the first summer camped in his wagon. After his marriage he built a home on the land, brought his farm to a high state of cultivation and at the time of his death was in possession of three hundred and twenty acres of land, which Mrs. Bishoff owns. His death occurred on the farm July 12,

1900, and was a severe shock to his many friends residing in the county. In August, 1905, Mrs. Bishoff moved into Harvard, built a cozy little home on North Main street and is there residing alone.

In 1872 occurred the marriage of Mr. Bishoff and Cony Hergenrother, a daughter of John and Mary (Merline) Hergenrother, both natives of Germany. Her parents came to the United States when young people and were married in New York state. In 1870 they removed to Clay county, acquired a homestead, and lived thereon until death. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hergenrother: Mrs. Bishoff; John, who is a retired farmer residing in Oxford; Peter, who is residing on his father's old homestead; Lena, who is the wife of Charles Smith, a carpenter of Harvard; and Mattie, who is residing in Harvard. Mr. and Mrs. Hergenrother were members of the Catholic church and he was a stanch supporter of the democratic party. They passed through all of the early pioneer hardships, allowing no obstacle to remain long in their path and at the time of his death Mr. Hergenrother was the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of well improved land and was ranked among the influential farmers of his community. Mr. and Mrs. Bishoff's marriage was the first to be celebrated in Clay county and to them ten children were born, five of whom are living: Otto W., who is farming near Harvard; Albert, a farmer of Clay county; Edward, who is engaged in farming; Frank, a farmer; and Ida, who married Arthur H. Yost of Lincoln, where he is successfully engaged in the lumber business.

Mr. Bishoff was throughout his life a stanch supporter of the democratic party, having firm belief in the principles of that party as factors in good government, and his religious faith was that of the Catholic church. Long years of toil brought to Mr. Bishoff the well merited and highly deserved success that usually rewards honest and capably directed effort and his death deprived Clay county of one of its most respected and useful citizens.

WILLIAM T. GLASS

Among the substantial citizens of Fairfield is William T. Glass, who is residing retired, enjoying a rest which he has richly earned and truly merits. Like many other prominent and successful citizens of Clay county he was born in another state, his birth having occurred in Oldham county, Kentucky, on the 5th of December, 1850. Further mention of the Glass family is made in the sketch of George E. Glass, to be found on another page of this work.

In the acquirement of an education William T. Glass attended the district schools of Iowa and after putting his textbooks aside engaged in farming. He was but a boy when he removed with his father and the rest of the family to Saline county, Nebraska, and there he resided twenty-three years. In 1893 he removed to Clay county and purchased a farm in section 18, northeast, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres. He made that farm his home until 1909, when he moved into Fairfield. He disposed of his farm in 1919, receiving one hundred and sixty dollars per acre for the land for which he paid thirty dollars per acre. Many were

the pioneer hardships endured and difficulties overcome by Mr. Glass, his persistency and his determination being the dominant factors in the attainment of his success.

In 1877 occurred the marriage of Mr. Glass and Miss Susan Chamberlin, a native of Tazewell county, Illinois, and a daughter of L. D. and Susan (Welcher) Chamberlin, both natives of New York. Their marriage was celebrated in Missouri, soon afterward they removed to Illinois and in 1874 came to Nebraska, locating in Saline county, where both passed away. Twelve children were born to them, four of whom are living: Nancy Brown, a widow who resides in Iowa; Mrs. Glass; Mahlon, who resides in Oregon; and Abbie Steel of Western, Nebraska. Four children have been born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Glass: Nettie, who is the wife of Joseph B. Moore, a farmer of Wyoming; Lloyd, who is engaged in farming near Scotts Bluff; R. F. of Sterling, Colorado, who is engaged in public work; and Millie, who is the wife of Emerson Nixon, a bookkeeper and stenographer of the Omaha Grain Exchange.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Glass the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the republican party and the religious faith of both himself and wife is that of the Christian church. His career has been one of activity and usefulness, crowned with success in the upbuilding of his fortunes, while his sterling characteristics throughout his life have commanded for him the confidence and respect of all.

EDWIN L. CASE

Death often removes from our midst those whom we can ill afford to lose and such was the uniform feeling of the community when it was learned that Edwin L. Case of Giltner had passed away. He was born in Indiana, February 29, 1860, and attended the schools of that state. He came to Hamilton county with his parents when a youth of thirteen years and was reared on the home farm, dividing his time between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. After his textbooks were put aside he continued to devote his attention to farm work under his father's direction to the time of his marriage.

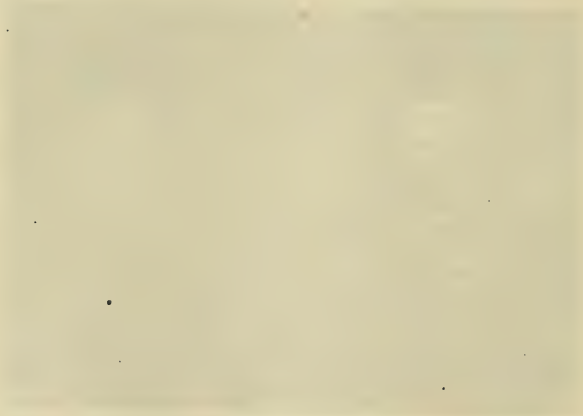
It was on the 11th of October, 1885, that Mr. Case wedded Miss Rose Dudgeon, who had come to Clay county in 1883 and lived on a farm with her brother in Leicester precinct. After their marriage they removed to a place of one hundred and twenty acres in Scoville precinct, and as the years passed, Mr. Case extended the boundaries of his property by further purchase until he became the owner of two hundred acres of land, constituting a valuable and well improved farm. He added excellent buildings to his place and all the modern equipment and successfully carried on general agricultural pursuits for many years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Case were born three daughters: Ivas E., now the wife of Hugh Woodburn of Colorado; Jennie B., the wife of Oscar Dangler of Scoville precinct; and Mabel, who is at home with her mother.

Mr. Case passed away in Iowa while on a visit in that state, his death occurring September 8, 1914. Four years later, or in 1918, his widow removed



MR. AND MRS. EDWIN L. CASE



to Giltner, but still owns the home farm. Mr. Case was a loyal and faithful member of the Baptist church from the age of sixteen years, and it was in the same church that he was married that his funeral services were conducted. His wife belongs to this church, and Mr. Case was also a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. All who knew him respected him for his sterling worth. He could be depended upon in any business transaction for reliability and honesty, and left behind him a "priceless heritage of a good name which is rather to be chosen than great riches."

CHARLES P. WHITESIDES

After passing through the experiences and hardships of pioneer life in Hamilton county, where he took up his abode in 1872, Charles P. Whitesides became identified with newspaper publication and is now serving the public in the capacity of county engineer. He was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, July 9, 1858, and is a son of Samuel Whitesides, a native of Kentucky, and a grandson of William Whitesides, who was born in Virginia but removed from that state to Kentucky, where his remaining days were passed. He was a cooper by trade but also followed the occupation of farming. His son, Samuel Whitesides, was reared in Kentucky and on the 3d of September, 1840, was married to Miss Calista Allyn, who was born near New Albany, Indiana, a daughter of James Allyn, who was a native of the state of New York but removed to Indiana at an early day, continuing a resident of that state throughout the remainder of his life. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Whitesides was celebrated in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Making their way down the Ohio and up the Mississippi rivers, they settled at the head of Rock Island Rapids, in Illinois, and there Mr. Whitesides served as deputy sheriff and peace officer at Rock Island for a period of sixteen years. He assisted in the capturing and hanging in connection with the "Vendetta of the Prairie." The offenders were murderers and horse thieves who occasioned great trouble to the settlers for a long period. It was in 1872 that Mr. Whitesides came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded. He then returned to Illinois for his wife and family and came back to Hamilton county in October of that year and lived here for five years. On the expiration of that period, in 1877, he returned to Illinois and spent his remaining days in that state. During the Civil war period he joined the Union army as a member of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Illinois Regiment, with which he served until wounded and discharged on account of disability. He was afterward commissioned mail agent by President Lincoln. Both he and his wife were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which they took an active and helpful part, and Mr. Whitesides was also an earnest supporter of republican principles. To him and his wife were born six children, of whom five are living: John W., who served in the Fourteenth Illinois Cavalry during the Civil war when quite young, is now a signal man on the railroad and makes his home in Rock Island, Illinois; Emmons is engaged in farming at Malvern, Iowa; James W. occupies the old homestead in Hamilton county; Joseph G. is in the employ of the government at Rock Island and Charles P. completes the family.

The last named obtained his education in the common schools of Illinois and in September, 1872, came to Nebraska with his brother Emmons, being but fourteen years of age at that time. He drove a team across the country, thus hauling some household goods. During the first year of the family's residence here the father planted twenty acres and they gathered some corn. They also erected some sod buildings and sheds and dug a well. For five years the family occupied the old homestead and in 1874 Charles P. Whitesides began to learn the printer's trade at Orville, then the county seat of Hamilton county.

He worked in the printing office for a time and later it was removed to Hamilton, where he continued until 1875, when the county seat was established in Aurora. About that time Mr. Whitesides returned to Illinois and remained through the winter, but in February, 1876, took up his abode in Aurora, establishing the Hamilton County News and conducted the paper until August, 1877. He then entered into partnership with G. W. Bailey, with whom he was thus associated until 1878, when he sold his interest in the business and removed to a rented farm. He had previously purchased some railroad land but could not meet the payments on his property because of the grasshopper scourge, which utterly destroyed all crops. He continued on the rented farm for a year and then returned to Aurora, entering into partnership with L. W. Hastings in the publication of the Republican for two years. He then sold his interest in the business and again took up farming, devoting three years to the cultivation of the fields. Once more he became a resident of Aurora and published the News from 1883 until 1886. In 1885, however, he accepted the position of deputy in the county clerk's office and began to make abstracts. He afterward turned his attention to the abstract business, in which he engaged for many years, and in 1906 brought out Whitesides' Textbook for Abstracts, Examiners, Surveyors and Conveyancers. This book was extensively used in Nebraska by railroad and abstract men. In 1914 Mr. Whitesides was appointed to the position of deputy county treasurer and occupied that office until 1918, when he was appointed county engineer and by reappointment has continued in the office to the present time.

In 1878 Mr. Whitesides was united in marriage to Miss Laura Van Wonner, who was born in Dickinson county, Iowa, a daughter of Amos Van Wonner, who became one of the pioneer settlers of Hamilton county. They became parents of five children, of whom three are living: Cora C., the wife of J. D. Lau, general manager for the H. P. Lau Company, wholesale grocers; Daisy E., the wife of Guy R. Peverley, who is a salesman with the large wholesale dry goods concern known as the Ely & Walker Company of St. Louis, Missouri; and Amos V., who is a switchman on the Rock Island Railroad and resides at Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1909 Mr. Whitesides was again married, his second union being with Nancy Gibbons, the widow of Homer Jackett. She was born in Hamilton county, a daughter of Israel Gibbons, who was a pioneer of the county. One child has been born of this marriage, Ruth, who is now in school.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitesides are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and his political allegiance is given to the democratic party. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias. He devotes practically all of his time and attention, however, to the duties of his office. He has two hundred and thirty-four miles of road to look after, keeps all of the accounts that have to do with

bridge and road work in the county and is also engaged in building roads. He has six men on patrol on state roads and he graded twenty-two miles of state roads in the year 1920. He is making a most capable official as county engineer and his efficiency and fidelity led to his reappointment to the office.

J. B. SCOTT

J. B. Scott has the distinction of being the only attorney in Sutton, Clay county. He has been actively engaged in the practice of law there since 1900 and is also serving as mayor, to which office he was elected in April, 1920. Mr. Scott was born near Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 23, 1860, a son of George and Charlotte (Stephens) Scott, the former a native of Cambridgeshire, England, while the latter was born in Canada. The father came to the United States when quite young and was but fourteen years of age when he located in Ohio, from which place he drifted to Canada. There he married and engaged in the railroad business. Before the Civil war he removed to Michigan and followed railroad work at Grand Rapids for some time. In 1884, however, he removed his family to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he retired and lived until his death. Mrs. Scott passed away at the home of her son, J. B., in Sutton. Both Mr. and Mrs. Scott were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and very active in church affairs. Fraternally he was a Mason and an Odd Fellow and politically he was a stanch supporter of the republican party.

J. B. Scott was educated in the schools of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and studied law in Toronto, Canada, obtaining his LL. B. degree in 1884. He was in that same year admitted to the Toronto bar. In the latter part of 1884 he decided to come west, located in Nebraska and for seven years traveled on the road for a business concern. At the end of that time he determined to take up the practice of law and was admitted to the bar at Kearney county, Nebraska, in 1891. He first located for practice at Mindon and there remained until 1900, when he removed to Sutton. He has since practiced in Sutton, Clay county and adjoining counties and has built up an extensive and lucrative practice. For fifteen years he held the office of city attorney and in this time more than demonstrated his ability as a lawyer. In April, 1920, he was elected to the mayoralty of Sutton and is now serving in that office to the complete satisfaction of all his fellowmen.

Mr. Scott was married to Miss Caroline Bell, a native of Canada and a daughter of Joseph Bell, also of that country. Her father came to Friend, Nebraska, at an early date and there engaged in farming, retiring a few years before his death and making his home in Sutton, where he made many friends.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Scott the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the republican party, in the interests of which he has taken an active part. Fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Pythias, of which lodge he has been chancellor commander for the past ten years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Scott are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which they take a prominent part. Mr. Scott has proved himself to be a clear and concise speaker when presenting his cases and he devotes his entire time to the interest of his clients. His

sterling characteristics have won the confidence of the community and he is readily acknowledged a leading and influential citizen and a successful member of the legal profession.

GEORGE KRELL

Since 1915 George Krell has been residing in Hastings, where he is a prominent and representative citizen. A native of Ohio, he was born in Franklin county, November 2, 1840, a son of George and Lena Krell. His parents were born in Alsace-Lorraine near Strassburg and their marriage occurred in Germany. Shortly after that event they came to the United States and located in Ohio and the father engaged in carpentering and undertaking at Columbus. Mrs. Krell and two children passed away in 1849 and two children are living: George, whose name initiates this review; and William, who lives near Fulton, Missouri, where he is engaged in farming. After his first wife's death George Krell married again and by the second union had one child, Charles, who is living in Baltimore. Throughout their lives Mr. and Mrs. Krell were consistent members of the Lutheran church and the father was a stanch supporter of the democratic party, having firm belief in the principles of that party as factors in good government.

In the acquirement of an education George Krell attended the schools of Ohio. In 1862 he enlisted for service in the Civil war, joining Company F, First Battalion, United States Infantry and the first real engagement in which he participated was the battle of Shiloh. He then engaged in several small skirmishes and the next battle of importance was Stone River. He was captured at the battle of Chickamauga, was sent to Belle Island for two weeks and then to Richmond, where he remained for three months. He was later imprisoned at Danville, Virginia, and Andersonville, South Carolina, being in the latter prison seven months, and was finally sent to Millen, Georgia. In all he was a prisoner fourteen months and two days. He was taken prisoner in September, 1863, and was paroled on the 21st of November, 1864, and went to the parole camp at Annapolis. He secured a furlough and went to Camp Chase, Columbus, was then sent to Cincinnati, New York city and then to Hilton Head, South Carolina, remaining there for about a month, when he returned to New York and from there went to Chattanooga, Tennessee. On the 12th of April, 1865, Mr. Krell received his discharge and returned to Iowa, where he had located in 1856 and from which state he had enlisted. For some time he hired out for farm work at wages of thirteen dollars per month and lived in Iowa until 1871, when he came to Nebraska and located in Clay county. He took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres on the 6th of September of that year, the land being located in Springranche township. He erected a small slab house on the place and set about to improve the land, soon getting it into a highly cultivated state. He stayed on the farm until 1907, in which year he settled in Fairfield and retired from active life. In 1915 he located in Hastings and is one of the most prominent men of that community.

In 1867, in Iowa, occurred the marriage of Mr. Krell and Miss Laura A. Stephenson, a daughter of W. M. Stephenson, further mention of whom is made on another page of this work. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Krell seven children

were born, five of whom are living: Lena, who is the wife of S. J. McCue, a farmer near Edgar; Fred, who is farming his father's old homestead; Letha, the wife of P. C. O'Brien, a farmer of Clay county; Maude, who is a nurse and resides at home; and Verna, the wife of John E. Nixon, a farmer of Otis, California.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Krell the right of franchise he has been a stanch supporter of the democratic party, in the principles of which he has firm belief. He was supervisor and assessor for a number of years. As a veteran of the Civil war he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and is active in the affairs of the local post. Mr. Krell passed through all the pioneer hardships and his trip from Iowa to Nebraska was made in a covered wagon, bringing with him eight or ten head of cattle and one team. Mr. Krell started life in Nebraska with nothing but a grim determination to succeed and he reached his goal of success solely through his own efforts.

THOMAS TOWNSLEY

The honored Nebraska pioneer to whom this review is dedicated lived up to the full tension of pioneer hardships in Hamilton county, played well and effectively his part in the development of the resources of this section of the state and stood exemplar of enlightened and progressive citizenship at a time when his leadership meant much in connection with community sentiment and action. Now venerable in years, he is living retired in the city of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Townsley was born in England, on the 19th of February, 1845, and was but four years of age when his parents made the voyage across the Atlantic to the United States, by means of an old-time sailing vessel, the voyage having been of seven weeks' duration. The family home was established in the state of Pennsylvania, where he was reared to manhood and received the advantages of the common schools of the period, and where his parents passed the remainder of their lives, the father having been a farmer by vocation. Mr. Townsley was too young for enlistment at the beginning of the Civil war, but in 1864 he enlisted in Knapps Independent, Battery E, Pennsylvania light Artillery, with which he saw active service in the Atlanta campaign and accompanied General Sherman's forces on the historic march from Atlanta to the sea. He took part in numerous skirmishes on this memorable march and remained with his regiment until the close of the war, when he received his honorable discharge.

After the war Mr. Townsley continued to be associated with farm industry in Pennsylvania until 1872, when he came with his family to Nebraska and took prominent place among the pioneer settlers of Hamilton county. In the present Union township he entered claim to a homestead and on the land he erected a small frame house, the first constructed on the open prairie between Harvard and grand Island, and the lumber was hauled overland from Harvard. Later he built a sod addition to the house and his first stable was of pole and straw type. He purchased a team of oxen, and with them initiated the breaking of his land and made it available for cultivation. His enterprise and good judgment were shown in his early planting of a grove of trees and an orchard, the latter having eventually died

out, with the exception of a few trees. Mr. Townsley drove to Farmers Valley for the milling of his grists and Harvard was his principal trading point. He buffeted with droughts and grasshoppers, as did the other pioneers, but never lost faith in the future of the state of his adoption, and his courage and tenacity of purpose were in accord with this faith and confidence. The isolated family home was snow-bound during three days in the historic blizzard of 1873, and as at that time he had no barn on his claim he tied his oxen near a stack of hay. Realizing that this shelter was inadequate, he went out into the storm and cut the oxen loose, with the result that they drifted on with the storm and after it abated one of the animals was found at a point fully three and one-half miles distant from the home place. In 1875 the family larder became greatly depleted and to supply it Mr. Townsley, with his first team of horses, went on a hunting trip in the western part of the state. While he was absent his wife and children subsisted mainly on bread and flour gravy and it may well be understood that there was rejoicing in the little prairie home when the hunter returned with a goodly supply of elk and deer meat. Mr. Townsley's success in the passing years justified his abiding faith in the country and he gradually added to the area of his original homestead until he became the owner of a well improved farm property of fully one hundred and sixty acres. He remained on the farm until 1889, when he removed to Aurora, the county seat, but in 1891 he returned to the farm, which continued his place of residence until 1915, when he remarried and moved to Giltner. From this village he later went to Lincoln, in which city he has since maintained his residence. He is a stalwart supporter of the principles of the republican party, his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is a charter member of Giltner Post, No. 71, Grand Army of the Republic.

As a young man Mr. Townsley was united in marriage, in Pennsylvania, to Miss Rebecca Ramaley, who was born and reared in that state, and who was his devoted companion and helpmeet during the pioneer days in Nebraska, where she died on the 2d of December, 1908, at the age of sixty-six years. Of this union were born eight children: William has active management of the old home farm; George C. resides at Arvada, Colorado, and holds the office of township clerk; Alice R. is the wife of V. W. Herman; Bessie is the deceased wife of Frank Hobbs, her death having occurred in 1914; Blanche is the wife of W. I. Worthington, a farmer in Hamilton county; and Clara, Melancthan and Emma are deceased. The wife and mother was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church and her memory is revered by all who came within the sphere of her gentle influence. In 1915 Mr. Townsley was remarried to Miss Elizabeth Grey of Indiana.

William Townsley, eldest of the children, was born in Pennsylvania and was three years of age at the time of the family removal to Nebraska, where he was reared under the conditions and influences of the pioneer farm and where his early education was acquired in a sod schoolhouse. He remained at the parental home until his marriage in 1897 to Miss Stella M. Fish, and he then began independent operations as a farmer. He bought forty acres, on which he made good improvements, and in addition to this place, in Union township, he has also the active control and supervision of his father's old home farm. He is known as a progressive agriculturist and stock raiser and in former years he won many premiums on his fine Duroc Jersey hogs, the raising of which was finally made inexpedient

on account of the ravages of hog cholera. He is a stanch republican and takes lively interest in all things touching the welfare of the county that has represented his home since childhood. His wife is an active member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. and Mrs. Townsley became the parents of eight children: Glenn, Wayne, Mervin, Violet, Raymond, Bessie, Denver, and May. Mervin, Violet and May are deceased and all of the other children remain at the parental home, which is known for its hospitality and good cheer.

J. M. HILL

J. M. Hill, deceased, was for many years prominent in the agricultural circles of Clay county. He was born in Ottawa, Ohio, on the 21st of November, 1843, and passed away on the 24th of February, 1915. His parents were Thomas and Nancy Hill, natives of Virginia, and both lived in that state the greater part of their lives and died there. Four children were born to them, of whom J. M., whose name initiates this review, was the third in order of birth. None of them is living.

J. M. Hill received his education in the schools of northern Ohio and was reared on a farm. At the age of eighteen years he enlisted for service in the Civil war, boming a member of Company J, Twenty-first Ohio Regiment. He was wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, being shot through the knee, and was soon after honorably discharged. He then returned to Ohio and because of his injury was not able to engage in active farming, but bought and sold grain. Later he removed to Iowa, where he became a land agent and engaged in the livery business at Jefferson. Subsequently he returned to Ohio and there his marriage occurred. In 1872 Mr. Hill removed with his family to Clay county and bought a timber claim and homesteaded. From that time until 1901 they resided on that land and then moved into Fairfield, where he retired from active business life. His death, which occurred on the 24th of February, 1915, came as a severe shock to his many friends in the community and in his passing Fairfield lost an honored and representative resident.

On the 15th of March, 1870, Mr. Hill was united in marriage to Miss Lucy A. Boucher, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Bower) Boucher, both natives of Pennsylvania, who came from that state to Ohio at an early day. The father engaged in farming throughout his life and passed away in Ohio. Mrs. Boucher's demise occurred at the home of a son in Michigan. Ten children were born to that union, eight of whom are living. Mrs. Hill was the seventh in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Boucher were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he was a stanch supporter of the republican party. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hill three children were born, two of whom are living: Mabel, who is the wife of Walter Athey, a barber of Fairfield; and Fred L., one of the prominent and prosperous farmers in the vicinity of Fairfield. Another son, Earl, the oldest of the family, passed away at the age of twenty-four years.

Throughout his entire life Mr. Hill was a republican, having firm belief in the principles of that party as factors in good government. His fraternal affiliations

were with the Modern Woodmen and he was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mrs. Hill is still making her home in Fairfield, where she has a nice home and is financially independent. She is active in all church affairs, being a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was her husband, is a teacher in the Sunday school and was on the church board for a number of years. She is also a prominent member of the Ladies Club. Mrs. Hill retains the old homestead of one hundred and sixty acres. She was a fitting helpmate to an honored husband and helped him achieve the success which he lived to enjoy in later years. He was a self-made man and his children are following in his footsteps. The demise of Mr. Hill caused a feeling of deep bereavement to sweep the community and left a void which will not easily be filled.

JOSEPH F. MEGRUE

Clay county figured as the stage of the pioneer experiences that came to the late Joseph F. Megrue, whose character and achievement caused him to leave indelible evidences of his sterling value as a citizen of the pioneer community and as an apostle of industrial and civic progress. In facing the problems and hardships of the pioneer days he manifested the same self-reliance and loyalty that had marked his course during his long and gallant service as a soldier of the Union in the Civil war and he was one of the prominent and honored pioneer citizens of Clay county at the time of his death, February 14, 1911.

Mr. Megrue was born in Ohio county, Indiana, on the 28th of February, 1846, his parents having been pioneer settlers in that part of the Hoosier state, where he was reared to manhood on the home farm and where he gained his youthful education in a little log schoolhouse that is still standing and that constitutes one of the interesting landmarks of that section of Indiana. He continued his association with the work of the home farm until his youthful patriotism was aroused by the outbreak of the Civil war. Though he was but sixteen years old at the time, he promptly tendered his aid in defense of the Union, by enlisting, in 1861, in the Fifth Indiana Light Artillery, with which gallant command he participated in many important battles and other engagements marking the progress of the great conflict between the north and the south. At Jackson, Mississippi, he had the top of his shoulder shot off and in his participation in the great battle of Gettysburg his horse was shot from under him. He took part also in the battles of Shiloh and Memphis, the siege of Vicksburg and other noteworthy engagements and his record was such as to reflect enduring distinction upon his name, his service having continued during practically the entire period of the war. After receiving his honorable discharge Mr. Megrue resumed his association with farm enterprise in Indiana, and after his marriage there continued his residence until 1874, when he came to the new state of Nebraska and initiated his career as a pioneer of Clay county, the long overland journey from Indiana being made with a team and covered wagon. Upon his arrival in Clay county Mr. Megrue purchased a homestead right, the only improvement on the land having been a rude sod house, ten feet square and a sod stable with straw roof. He began the breaking and cultivation of his land, planted

forest trees and an orchard, and applied himself earnestly to the work in hand, with confidence that the future would justify his faith in the country. Hastings was the principal trading point of the family in the early days and fuel for the little prairie home was mainly buffalo chips and wood from trees along the Blue river. Grasshopper visitations, droughts and severe blizzards brought their share of discomforts and losses to the pioneer community in general and in addition to wild game killed by him in the local vicinity. Mr. Megrue made trips to the wilds of western Nebraska in order to secure game that should supply his home with meat for the winter season. He finally erected a large frame house on his farm and in 1887 this, with its contents, was destroyed by fire. He and his family lived in the barn on the place for a year thereafter, until he could effect the completion of a new house and eventually his success was attested by his ownership of a half-section of the valuable land of Clay county. In 1905 Mr. Megrue retired from his farm and established his home at Harvard, in which village he passed the remainder of his life and in which he was an honored member of Richardson Post, No. 70, Grand Army of the Republic. He was a democrat in political allegiance and served several terms as precinct assessor in Clay county, both he and his wife holding membership in the Congregational church, as did also his first wife.

As a young man Mr. Megrue married Miss Mary Downey, who died in Indiana, and it was prior to leaving that state that he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Zeh, who shared with him in the trials and vicissitudes of pioneer life in Nebraska and who preceded him to eternal rest, her death having occurred in 1907. All of the children were born of the second marriage, and the firstborn, Lawson, died at the age of three years; Andrew E. is a prosperous farmer in Colorado; Elmer E. is established as a successful farmer near Scotia, Greeley county, Nebraska; Floyd A. died at the age of twenty-five years; and L. A. is a progressive farmer of Hamilton county, where his farm is some miles distant from the old home of the family in Clay county, his home receiving service on one of the rural mail routes from Harvard, that county.

L. A. Megrue gained his early education in the pioneer schools of Clay county and there he had in his boyhood and youth a goodly experience in connection with the work of the home farm. In 1883 he went to Redwillow county, this state, where for three years he devoted his time to herding cattle on a large cattle ranch. He then returned to Clay county and eventually erected a store building in the village of Eldorado, that county, where he built up a prosperous general merchandise business. After conducting this enterprise two years he sold the store and business and resumed his active association with farm enterprise. In Hamilton and Clay counties he is now the owner of a well improved and valuable farm property of two hundred acres, besides which he owns a ranch and farm of eight hundred acres in Morrill county. He has profited fully by the advantages afforded in the state of Nebraska and has won for himself a generous measure of prosperity, with high standing as a substantial and straightforward business man and loyal and public-spirited citizen. His political tendencies mark him as a stanch supporter of the cause of the democratic party, and he has been actively affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for more than fifteen years.

In Clay county was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Megrue to Miss Bertha Severson, daughter of Henry Severson, who came from Wisconsin with wagon and

ox team and numbered himself among the pioneers of Hamilton county, where, in 1871, he entered claim to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres and established the family in a rude dugout, which later gave place to a sod house. He and his wife endured all of the hardships and trials that attended the early settlers of this section of the state, but eventually prosperity crowned their efforts and compensated them for the labors and difficulties of earlier years. Mrs. Severson died in 1901 and Mr. Severson was sixty-four years of age at the time of his death, in October, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Megrue became the parents of two children: Wayne, who is, in 1921, a student in the high school at Harvard; and Doyle, who was killed July 31, 1919.

P. A. NELSON

With the agricultural development of Clay county, P. A. Nelson has been closely associated for many years, having operated a large farm which he successfully cultivated and on which he raised high grade stock. He was born in Sweden on the 22d of November, 1850, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Nelson, both natives of that country, who passed away there in 1869, and he was the eldest of a family of six children born to them. Five are living, but only two are residing in the United States, one sister, Ellen Pierson, whose home is in Willmar, Minnesota, and P. A., of this review.

P. A. Nelson is indebted to the schools of his native country for his education, but when tales of the opportunities offered in the new world came to his ears he determined to come to this country and here win his way to success. As a result the year 1871 found him in Bureau county, Illinois, where he was engaged in working out on farms, for which labor he received eighteen dollars per month. For seven and one-half years he continued in that connection, becoming thoroughly familiar with every phase of farm life. In 1878 he came to Clay county, bringing but little with him, and purchased a quarter section of land from the railroad, for which he paid cash. He is now in possession of three quarter sections of fine land in the county. He became a practical farmer and stockman, raising all breeds of cattle and he also bought and sold cattle, achieving substantial success in that connection. He overcame all obstacles and difficulties in his path by persistence and energy and made steady progress. In 1908 he removed to Harvard and retired from active life and he is a well known and prominent citizen of the community.

On the 19th of September, 1878, Mr. Nelson was united in marriage to Miss Lena Holmes, a native of Sweden, who came to the United States and located in Illinois in 1870. Her parents arrived in this country in 1878 and lived with Mr. and Mrs. Nelson until their death. The mother lived to the advanced age of ninety-nine years. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, three of whom are living: Clara, who is the wife of Oscar Lundine, a farmer of Haxtum, Colorado; Olga, the wife of Dell Hiatt, engaged in farming six miles from Harvard; and Will, who is residing on his father's farm.

In politics Mr. Nelson follows an independent course, supporting the man he thinks best fitted for the office, regardless of party. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church. Mr. Nelson owns a fine town residence surrounded by two

acres of land, in addition to a four hundred and eighty acre tract of well improved and valuable land. Since coming to this country to live Mr. Nelson has once returned to his native land and that was in 1909 when he made the trip via London, Liverpool and other cities and remained some time in Denmark. He has also traveled extensively in the Unitd States and spent one winter in California. Throughout the community he has many friends who appreciate his true personal worth and sterling traits of character and he stands foremost among the citizens of Harvard.

GEORGE H. SINNER

George H. Sinner, who is engaged in the real estate and insurance business at Sutton, was born three miles east of Harvard, Nebraska, April 4, 1883, his parents being Henry and Margarite (Weitzel) Sinner, both of whom were natives of Russia, in which country they were reared and educated. They came to the United States in 1875, settling in Clay county, Nebraska, where the father rented a farm, for he had only forty dollars in cash when he reached the county. However, he carefully saved his earnings until his industry and economy had brought him sufficient capital to enable him to gain a start as a landowner and in course of time he acquired a half section and also had property in Harvard, becoming one of the well-to-do men of this part of the state. He experienced the difficulties and hardships occasioned by the drought and the hail of pioneer times, but with persistent energy he kept on and the years at length brought to him substantial prosperity. Mr. Sinner and his wife became members of the German Reformed church and he established the first church at Harvard. This has been rebuilt three times since that date and on the last occasion Mr. Sinner furnished the bell for the church and it was tolled for the first time at his funeral. He was instrumental in having many families settle in this county and assisted them in gaining a start, loaning money and advising them as to purchases and business investments. To him and his wife were born nine children, eight of whom are living, seven sons and a daughter, of whom George H. is the youngest. They are: Conrad, now a retired farmer of Harvard; John, who is engaged in the taxicab business at Fresno, California; Peter, residing on a farm at Loveland, Colorado; Phillip, who cultivates a farm south of Sutton; Henry and Will, twins, who purchased the old home farm and now occupy it; George H.; and Kate, the wife of John Schnell, a retired farmer living in Harvard.

George H. Sinner was educated in the country schools of District No. 10 in Clay county and in the Lincoln Business College at Lincoln, Nebraska, from which he was graduated in 1900. He turned to agricultural pursuits when his textbooks were put aside and engaged in farming to the age of twenty-four years. He then went to the capital city and worked in the freight office for a time, while subsequently he was transferred to Portland, Oregon, to fill a position in the auditor's office of the railroad company. There he continued for four years. At the end of that time his father died and Mr. Sinner returned to Sutton. He then purchased the farm implements of Gus Bender and located on the farm, which he cultivated for a year. He next came to Sutton, where he engaged in barbering for a year and a half and on the expiration of that period was employed by H. M. Hanson for a

similar length of time. On the 22d of January, 1921, he established the real estate and insurance business which he is now conducting and he has made an excellent start in this field.

In September, 1910, Mr. Sinner was married to Miss Luella Dederman, who was born in Norfolk, Nebraska, and they have become the parents of a daughter, Margaret, now in school. Mr. Sinner and his wife belong to the German Reformed church and his political views are in accord with the teachings of the republican party, while in all public affairs he is actuated by a spirit of enterprise and advancement.

CHARLES P. CRAFT

A lawyer of recognized prominence of the Nebraska bar is Charles P. Craft of Aurora, whose clientele is now very extensive and of a most important character. He is a member of the firm of Hainer, Craft & Lane of Lincoln, and of the firm of Hainer, Craft & Edgerton of Aurora. Iowa claims him as a native son, his birth having occurred in Mahaska county, July 16, 1879, his parents being George P. and Mary (Pike) Craft, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. They were married in Iowa, where they settled in early life, and there the father followed farming until 1883, when he came to Hamilton county and purchased land from the Union Pacific Railroad Company. His remaining days were spent on the homestead, which he developed and improved and thereon reared his family of ten children, nine of whom are living, Charles P., being the eldest. In his political views Mr. Craft was an earnest republican and in religious faith his wife was a Presbyterian.

Charles P. Craft was educated in the Aurora high school until graduated with the class of 1895, after which he entered the State University and won his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1904, while in 1905 the Bachelor of Law degree was conferred upon him. Following the completion of his legal course he at once began practice in Aurora in association with Mr. Hainer and the connection has continued. They formed the partnership in 1914 and later the firm style of Hainer, Craft & Edgerton was adopted and the firm exists in this relationship. In Lincoln Mr. Craft also practices in association with Mr. Hainer under the firm style of Hainer, Craft & Lane, the first two partners following the profession in both cities. Mr. Craft devotes practically his entire attention to his work at the bar and his ability is constantly manifest in the able manner in which he handles his cases, marshalls and presents his evidence and writes his briefs. His reasoning is clear and cogent, his deductions sound and logical. Aside from his profession he is known in business circles as a director of the First Trust Company of Aurora and he has large landed interests in Hall, Hamilton and Morrill counties. Notwithstanding all this, his time and attention are chiefly given to his law practice and he is now the chief attorney for the Royal Highlanders, has an extensive private practice and is regarded one of the leading members of the Nebraska bar.

In 1907 Mr. Craft was married to Miss Anna C. Hoefer, a native of Aurora and a daughter of Fritz and Elizabeth Hoefer, the former of whom came to Hamilton county in 1878. Here he became connected with the jewlery trade in Aurora,

remaining a leading merchant in the city to the time of his death. His widow still resides here. To Mr. and Mrs. Craft have been born two children: Elizabeth, in school; and Charles F., three years of age. Mrs. Craft is a member of the Congregational church. Mr. Craft votes for the republican party and all matters of public welfare are of keen interest to him, his aid and influence being ever on the side of civic advancement and public improvment.

PETER N. PETERSEN

Another native of Denmark who has won success in agricultural circles is Peter N. Petersen who for many years has been a resident of Hamilton county. He was born in that country on the 16th of June, 1849, and there received his education. In 1872 at the age of twenty-three years he came to the United States and made his first home in Detroit, Michigan.

After locating at Detroit, Mr. Petersen obtained work in a brickyard and remained in that connection until he went to Chicago and subsequently to Michigan, where he was employed in a sawmill for two years. At the termination of that time he went to Racine, Wisconsin, and worked in a lumber-yard for five years and in 1879 came west and located in Hamilton county. He purchased eighty acres of railroad land on which there were no improvements and put up a two-room sod house with board floor and dirt roof. He also erected a straw stable. Breaking his land himself, he set out an orchard and some forest trees but the orchard was mostly killed during the droughts and the various hailstorms. In order to obtain fuel Mr. Petersen had to drive to Platte and most of his trading was done at Central City. Mr. Petersen added to his land from time to time and once was in possession of eight hundred acres.

In 1874 occurred the marriage of Mr. Petersen and Miss Anna Jensen, a native of Denmark, and her death took place in October, 1916. Six children were born to that union, four of whom died in infancy; Carl Alfred runs a battery station in Aurora; and Christina died at the age of thirty-three years.

Mr. Petersen gives his allegiance to the republican party and is a stanch supporter of the principles for which it stands. His religious faith is that of the Danish Lutheran church. Although the greater part of Mr. Petersen's time is devoted to his agricultural interests he also has an interest in the Farmers Elevators at Hampton and Aurora. He is indeed a representative citizen and one of whom any community would be proud.

OTIS M. NEWMAN, D. D. S.

Dr. Otis M. Newman is the oldest practicing dentist of Aurora in years of continuous connection with the profession, having for a quarter of a century maintained an office in this city. He was born in Harrison county, Indiana, June 28, 1875, and is a son of Andrew J. Newman and a grandson of John Newman, who

was one of the pioneer settlers of Indiana. In early life the grandfather engaged in business as a stone and brick mason and later conducted a hotel in southern Indiana. It was in this hotel that John Morgan, the Confederate general, took dinner on the day he crossed the river into Indiana. Four brothers of Andrew J. Newman were soldiers of the Union army in the Civil war and two of them lost their lives while defending the country. Andrew J. Newman was born in Harrison county, Indiana, and spent the days of his youth and early manhood in that state. After attaining his majority he wedded Rebecca Dahl, whose father was a pioneer resident of Indiana and he was a minister of the United brethren church. Some years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Newman removed from Indiana to Kansas, making the overland trip, and later took up their abode in Lincoln, Nebraska, where they resided for a year and then established their home in York. The father was first employed as a clerk but afterward became a general merchant and was engaged in that business in York at the time of his demise. He was also quite active in politics and for seventeen years filled the position of clerk of the county court. He also served as deputy sheriff prior to his occupancy of the office of county court clerk. He passed away on the 12th of October, 1901, at the age of fifty years, and is survived by his widow, who is making her home with a daughter in York. A member of the Masonic fraternity, he took the degrees of the York Rite and of the Mystic Shrine, and he also belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Woodmen and the Workmen. In politics he was a republican and was a stalwart supporter of the party, doing everything in his power to promote its growth and insure its success. To him and his wife were born four children: Otis M.; Mrs. H. E. Detrick, a widow living in York; Mrs. John Parrish, whose husband is engaged in the lumber and automobile business in Pontiac, Illinois; and John Wright, who is associated with his brother in the practice of dentistry, having graduated from the Lincoln Dental College. John Wright Newman married Margaret Green of York, daughter of L. P. Green, who was a farmer of York county for a number of years and afterward engaged in the real estate business in York but is now residing in Greeley, Colorado. Dr. and Mrs. John Wright Newman have one child, John W., Jr., who is three years of age. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In the attainment of his education Dr. Otis M. Newman attended the public schools of York until graduated from the high school with the class of 1892. Having determined upon the practice of dentistry as a life work he then entered the dental school of the State University of Iowa at Iowa City and completed his course there as an alumnus of 1896. He located for practice in Aurora twenty-four years ago and is today the oldest dentist in years of continuous practice in the city. He is a close and discriminating student of the science of dentistry and in his practice displays not only comprehensive knowledge of the underlying principles of the profession but also that marked mechanical skill and ingenuity which are so necessary in successful practice.

In December, 1900, Doctor Newman was married to Miss Marion B. Shankland, a native of Lebanon, Boone county, Indiana, who came to Hamilton county in 1880. She is a daughter of Floyd Shankland, one of the early farmers of this section of the state. To Doctor and Mrs. Newman has been born one child, Claudia N., who is now a teacher in the schools of Hampton and is a graduate of

the Aurora high school. Mrs. Newman holds membership in the Presbyterian church. Doctor Newman belongs to the Knights of Pythias, the Highlanders and the Modern Woodmen. His political endorsement is given the republican party and for four years he filled the office of city councilman of Aurora, discharging his duties with marked capability and fidelity. There is also an interesting military chapter in his life record. He enlisted for service in the Spanish-American war but was rejected. He joined the Second Regiment upon its reorganization and in 1899 became a member of the National Guard. He served for fourteen years and three months with the National Guard and advanced from the ranks to the position of major and was in command of Company H at Aurora for seven and a half years. He resigned in March, 1913, and on the day war with Germany was declared he obtained permission from the government to raise a company and was elected captain, serving during the entire time at Camp Cody, New Mexico. He was prevented from going overseas by illness, so he was assigned to school work and organized the schools at the camp, having eighteen hundred men in the battalion and over six hundred in the schools. He did a great work in this connection, for many men could neither read nor write when they entered but before leaving were reading newspapers and the Saturday Evening Post. Doctor Newman received his discharge December 26, 1918. He returned home three months afterward and took up the practice of dentistry, to which he devotes his entire time. He now has an extensive practice which brings to him a substantial return and he enjoys not only a liberal patronage from the public but the high regard, confidence and goodwill of all who know him throughout this section of the state.

MATHIAS CHADA

Mathias Chada, now deceased, was identified with the agricultural interests of Clay county for a number of years. He was born in Bohemia on the 17th of January, 1840, and died on his farm March 4, 1921, the news of his death causing a feeling of deep bereavement to sweep the community.

Mathias Chada received his education in the schools of his native country, where he resided until 1851 when he came to the United States with his parents. He located in Wisconsin and learned the shoemaker's trade at which he worked for some time. Upon the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted from Milwaukee in a Wisconsin regiment and served four years, three months and six days. In 1873 he and his wife came to Nebraska, locating in Saline county, and there they resided for some years until he acquired a homestead in Clay county. He followed his trade in Crete, his family remaining on the home place, but in 1889 removed to his farm in Clay county and there resided until his death. A small frame shack was their first home on that land but Mr. Chada later erected a fine residence. Mrs. Chada is now living on the farm alone and is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land, from which she receives a substantial income. Mr. Chada engaged in mixed farming and his success was the result of his own determined effort.

On the 22d of November, 1869, occurred the marriage of Mr. Chada and Miss Jennie Fritchek, a native of Bohemia, and a daughter of Henry Fritchek.

Her father located in Wisconsin in 1866 and resided there until his death. Seven children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Chada, four of whom are now living: Libbie, the wife of Stine Bedner of Clay county; Georgia, married Joe Secora, a farmer of New York; Ben, a farmer of Keith county; and Blanch, who married Ed. Zajic, a farmer of Webster county.

In politics Mr. Chada was an earnest republican and he stood for all that was progressive in matters of citizenship. His time and energies were concentrated upon his business affairs and he justly won classification with the representative farmers of Clay county.

ADAM R. RAY, M. D.

For many years Dr. Adam R. Ray practiced medicine in Clay county and his death on the 3rd of April, 1917, came as a severe shock to his many friends in the community. He was born in Frankville, Iowa, in 1859, a son of Robert and Mary Ray, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of New York. They removed to Iowa at an early day and there the father engaged in farming. Nine children were born to their union, two of whom are living. Adam R. was the third in order of birth.

Adam R. Ray received his education in the district schools of Iowa and later went to Lake Crystal, Minnesota, where he engaged in teaching in a normal school. Doctor Ray decided upon the medical profession as a life work and entered a medical school at Keokuk, Iowa, from which he was graduated in 1888. Soon after graduating he engaged in practice at Marquette, Nebraska, and remained there for one year, when he came to Fairfield, in 1889. He built up a fine practice and became recognized as one of the county's most able and eminent physicians and surgeons. In 1914 he sold his practice to Dr. Bell and went to Brown county, where he purchased a fine ranch. He bought a drug store and was also active in the practice of his profession until his death April 3, 1917. His demise caused a feeling of deep bereavement to sweep the community, for in his passing the county lost a man whose fidelity to duty in every relation of life was characterized by high ideals.

On the 1st of October, 1890, occurred the marriage of Mr. Ray and Miss Frances Gillette, a native of Knowlesville, Orleans county, New York, her birth having occurred there in 1872 a daughter of Dyer B. and Ida A. (Howe) Gillette. Her parents were both born in New York and came to Clay county in 1880. There he purchased a good farm and thereon resided until 1890, when they removed to Clay Center. His removal to Clay Center was the outcome of his being elected to the office of clerk of the district court. His death occurred there on the 16th of April, 1912. Mrs. Gillette is still making her home in Clay Center. Seven children were born to their union: Watson, a merchant of Holdrege; Frances; Willis, a retired farmer of Clay Center; Emma A., who is the wife of Albert Talbott, editor of a newspaper; Rose, who is the wife of Ray Boerland, a rancher and oil man of Casper, Wyoming; Julia, the wife of Bruce C. Robinson, an electrician of Superior; and Ida, who is the wife of Carl Lynch of Haigler. Throughout his life Mr. Gil-

lette was a stanch republican and was likewise a member of the Congregational church and fraternally was a Mason. He was a veteran of the Civil war, having served in the One Hundred and Third Ohio Regiment three years. To the union of Doctor and Mrs. Ray but one child, Nina E., was born. She is the wife of Ralph Frazer, a barber of Lexington.

Doctor Ray always gave his political allegiance to the republican party and for some time served as mayor of Fairfield. His religious faith was that of the Congregational church and fraternally he was identified with the Knights of Pythias and was grand chancellor of the state in 1911. He was likewise a member of the Modern Woodmen and the Highlanders. Mrs. Ray is active in the church and club circles of Fairfield, where she resides in a fine home and she takes a particularly active part in the affairs of the Order of the Eastern Star. Doctor Ray was a progressive and successful man. He developed high professional skill through wide study and training and continually added to his knowledge through broad reading on subjects having to do with his profession.

CARL H. MILLS

Carl H. Mills has made his home in Nebraska since 1872, when he removed to Clay county with his parents. He is now owner of an excellent farm property in section 20, Edgar township, and also a fine farm in Nuckolls county, whereon he resides and he is classed with the most enterprising and prosperous farmers of both communities. He was born in New York state in 1868, a son of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Mills. The father at the time of his death was a large landowner in Clay and Nuckolls counties, having settled in the former county in 1872. He acquired a homestead in Clay county, one-half mile west of Edgar in that year, whereon he resided for some time. He later removed to Nuckolls county and passed away there in 1918. He was a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted from New York state, and he served gallantly throughout the entire conflict. Carl H., whose name initiates this review, was the only child born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Mills.

In the acquirement of an education Carl H. Mills attended the first term of school ever taught in Edgar and then completed his education in the country schools of Clay and Nuckolls counties. Since reaching adult age he has engaged in farming on his own account and owns considerable land in both Clay and Nuckolls counties, making his home on a farm in the latter county. His half section located in Clay county is highly cultivated and brings him a substantial income.

The eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Mills, D. C. Mills, owns and resides upon a farm in Clay county. He was educated in the country schools of Nuckolls county and graduated from the Edgar high school and soon after putting his textbooks aside engaged in farming on his own account. In 1918 he was married to Opha E. Stayner, a native of Clay county and a daughter of Edward Stayner. Her father is one of Clay county's honored pioneers, who now lives on a farm one and one-half miles north of Edgar. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Mills: Mary Margaret and Rita. D. C. gives his political allegiance to the republican party and fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The

other members of the family born to Mr. and Mrs. Carl H. Mills are: Rita, a stenographer for the Liberty Fire Insurance Company at Omaha; Harry H., residing at home; and Lela, who is attending school.

The political allegiance of Mr. Mills has always been given to the republican party and it is well known that he is a stalwart champion of any cause which it espouses. His fraternal affiliation is with the Odd Fellows. Mr. Mills has learned his lessons in the school of experience and his life illustrates that it is under the pressure of adversity and the stimulus of necessity that the strongest and best in men is brought out and developed. His has been a useful and active life fraught with good results and his energy has been a potent element in his continued advancement.

ELI A. ARMSTRONG

Eli A. Armstrong, who is engaged in general farming on section 10, in the town of Leicester, Clay county, was born in Jackson county, Ohio, February 5, 1859, and is a son of John and Lucy Anna (Garrett) Armstrong. He spent his youth upon a farm in his native state and attended the subscription schools, pursuing his studies in a little frame schoolhouse in Scioto township, where the methods of teaching were primitive and where the pupils sat upon rude benches. School was held about three months in the year and he had to walk a distance of three miles to school. It was in such an environment that E. A. Armstrong spent his youthful days. His mother died when he was a lad of but thirteen years and he then went out to work as a farm hand. By hoeing corn at twenty-five cents per day he earned the money that bought him the first pair of shoes which he secured for himself. He afterward worked by the month for some time and at the age of seventeen years made his way to Iowa. There he was employed at farm labor at a salary of thirteen dollars per month. Later he engaged in homesteading in Kansas but gave up his land there and in 1882 removed to Clay county, Nebraska, making the trip across the country to this state in a covered wagon. He had no capital with which to purchase land at the time, so he rented, but afterward bought eighty acres on which was a sod house. He built a straw barn and began developing and improving the property, overcoming all the difficulties and hardships of pioneer life by his persistency of purpose and undaunted energy. He has put all of the buildings upon his place and built all of the fences and he broke the greater part of his land with a team of horses. He did most of his trading in the early days at Harvard and at Hastings and has hauled carn to Harvard, which he there sold for ten cents per bushel. He, too, experienced the hardships occasioned by the drought of 1894, but with perseverance and energy he has passed through the hard times and is now in very comfortable financial circumstances. In the early days it was necessary to burn cornstalks and corn for fuel, as there was no timber within long distances. Mr. Armstrong carried on general farming and also raised Duroc Jersey hogs for many years but now rents his land, leaving the actual work of further developing the fields to others.

Mr. Armstrong was married to Miss Martha Carson, a native of Iowa and a daughter of Edwin Carson. She passed away November 30, 1919, after they had

traveled life's journey happily together for many years. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Trumbull and her many splendid traits of heart and mind endeared her to a large circle of friends.

Mr. Armstrong also belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church of Trumbull. He has served on the school board and has filled the office of road supervisor and since age conferred upon him the right of franchise has given his political allegiance at times to the democratic party and at other times has been an independent voter. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He possesses many sterling traits of character and all who know him testify to his worth as a citizen, to his reliability and progressiveness as a business man and to his fidelity in friendship.

CLARENCE PERCY AVERY

For many years Clarence Percy Avery, now deceased, was prominent in the business circles of Edgar. He was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1870, a son of Orin and Rosalie (Hoffman) Avery. The father was a graduate of West Point and he served with the commission of captain during the Civil war. While stationed at New Orleans during the war he met his future wife. After the close of the conflict he came to Clay county, secured a homestead, and lived there a short time then moved to Edgar, and lived there for thirty years prior to his death. His widow still resides there. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Avery five children were born: Carrie, who is the wife of Henry Jackson, conducting a grocery and dry goods store at Edgar; Clarence Percy, whose name initiates this review; George A., who is manager of a canning company at Los Angeles, California; Robert, whose death occurred in 1919 and who has for some time been in the lumber business at Lincoln; and Willard, who is living on the farm near Edgar.

Clarence Percy Avery received a grammar and high school education and in due time entered the State University of Nebraska and later a business college at Lincoln. He worked for the Griswold Seed Company for twelve years after completing his schooling and subsequently came to Clay county and located in Edgar. There he engaged in the grocery business with his brother George until they sold the store in 1912. He built up a large patronage by reason of his fair prices and dealings and soon became recognized as one of the most successful business men in the community.

In 1901 Mr. Avery was married to Miss Ida Gardner, a native of Ohio and a daughter of James H. and Elizabeth (Ludwick) Gardner. The father was a native of Eaton, Ohio, and the mother of Adams county, that state, and their marriage was celebrated in 1875. Mr. Gardner was a druggist, having received suitable education along that line in Fayette, Indiana, and upon locating in Edgar in 1883 he immediately opened up a drug business. Previous to his coming to Clay county he had been engaged in like business in Illinois. He won more than a substantial amount of success in the conduct of his store, in which connection he continued until his demise. Mr. and Mrs. Gardner were the parents of three children: Mrs. Avery; Estella, who is the wife of George W. Ivins, a real estate

man of Cape Girardeau, Missouri; and J. Wilson, who is conducting a drug business in Vancouver, Washington. Mr. Gardner was a veteran of the Civil war. His widow is living and makes her home with Mrs. Avery. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Avery: Harold G., who is attending the State University at Lincoln; and Maxine, who is attending the Edgar public schools.

Throughout his life Mr. Avery was a stanch supporter of the republican party in the interests of which he took an active part. His religious faith was that of the Baptist church. Fraternally he was identified with the Masons, being a Knight Templar, Shriner and having attained the Thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite. He also belonged to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. At the time of his demise Mr. Avery was serving as county treasurer of Clay county.

HARVEY E. WOOD

Harvey E. Wood, an Aurora contractor whose business has reached substantial proportions and whose patronage has long been most gratifying, was born in Mauston, Wisconsin, October 30, 1864, a son of H. C. and Ann (Ellis) Wood, the former a native of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, while the latter was born in Woodstock, Vermont. They were reared and married in New England and afterward removed to Illinois, while later they became residents of Wisconsin. The father was a teacher in the east and also in Danville, Illinois. He had been liberally educated and was a graduate of Dartmouth College of Massachusetts. Both he and his wife were active and devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he became a minister of that denomination. He was also one of the earliest supporters of the republican party, joining its ranks when the party was organized to prevent the further extension of slavery. His aid and influence were always on the side of progress, reform and improvement and he was ever a strict prohibitionist in principle and did all in his power to advance the temperance cause. After living in Wisconsin for a number of years he removed to Hamilton county, Nebraska, in 1880, and purchased a farm upon which he made his home for a decade and then took up his abode in Aurora, where both he and his wife passed away. They were parents of twelve children, nine of whom are living, two being residents of Aurora, C. W. and Harvey E., the former a commercial traveler.

Harvey E. Wood pursued a high school course in Evanston, Illinois, and started out to provide for his own support as a farm hand. In 1888 he turned his attention to brick manufacturing south of Aurora and prospered in this undertaking. In 1890 he took up contract work and has since engaged in general contracting and building, having done a large amount of the building in Aurora and elsewhere. He has erected a number of depots for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad and is today recognized as one of the foremost contractors in this part of the state, having a patronage that places him among the leaders in his line. Thoroughness and efficiency have ever been his watchword and his well arranged plans have added much to the architectural beauty of the city in which his work is seen. In the last two years he has somewhat retired from the contracting business, for he now owns a section of irrigated land in Montana and one hundred acres of irrigated

land in Idaho and is giving much of his time to the supervision, development and improvement of his farm properties.

In 1898 Mr. Wood was married to Bertha Snow, a native of Seward, Nebraska, and a daughter of Simeon Snow, who was a pioneer of Hamilton county and in 1873 homesteaded here. To Mr. and Mrs. Wood have been born two children: Helen, who is attending the Wesleyan University at Lincoln; and Joe, a student in the State University. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Wood belongs to the Modern Woodmen and the Royal Highlanders, while politically he maintains an independent course. He and his family occupy a beautiful home at No. 503 L street, which he erected in 1912, and their social position is an enviable one, while in business circles he has long maintained a place of prominence and leadership.

CHARLES NEUMANN

Charles Neumann is living retired at Sutton and has passed the seventy-eighth milestone on life's journey, his birth having occurred near the Rhine in Germany on the 6th of February, 1843. He is a son of William G. and Catherine (Kohl) Neumann, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father was in the military service of his country for a number of years, serving under King William, and participated in the war against France, after which he was pensioned for his aid. His loyalty to his country and his bravery won him two iron crosses. In 1857 he came to the United States, bringing with him his family of nine children. His reason for leaving Germany was his opposition to a one-man rule. He had become quite well-to-do while in his native country and was thus able to secure a comfortable home when he located in Henry county, Illinois, there spending his remaining days, his death occurring December 25, 1861. To him and his wife were born twelve children, of whom six are living: Hugo, who is living retired in Omaha, Nebraska, at the age of eighty-eight years; Adolph, who is living retired at Broken Bow, Nebraska, at the age of eighty-five; Frederick, who makes his home in Exeter at the age of eighty-two years; Charles, of this review; Jacob, who was born in 1846 and resides in Des Moines, Iowa; and Julius, seventy-three years of age, who is a merchant of Wymore, Nebraska, and built the first brick business house of that place. Four of the sons of the family served in the Civil war, these being Charles, Frederick, Jacob and Valentine. The parents were members of the Lutheran church and in political faith Mr. Neumann was a democrat. His wife died in Wymore, Nebraska, in 1880.

Charles Neumann was educated in the schools of Germany to the age of fourteen years and then came with his parents to the new world. He afterward worked out as a farm hand by the month until the Civil war began, when he enlisted as a member of Company L of the Seventh Illinois Cavalry, serving until November, 1865. He participated in a number of skirmishes and in the battle of Nashville. The Neumann family are all musical and the four brothers who served in the war were buglers. When the country no longer needed his military aid Mr. Neumann returned to his home in Illinois and in 1879 removed to Clay county, Nebraska.

He was on his way to Kansas, but one of his horses was taken lame at Sutton and as it was impossible for him to proceed farther he hired out to a man to work as a farm hand. He continued in that employ for two years and later worked for Mr. Grosshaus for seven years, in the implement and grain business. He then began driving wells and devoted twenty years to that work, winning substantial success in the undertaking. Mr. Neumann has done much to assist in the upbuilding of the town of Sutton and has erected three different residences there. He retired from active business in 1912 and is now enjoying well earned rest from further labor, his son, Clarence, having taken over the business.

It was in 1864 that Mr. Neumann was united in marriage to Miss Mary Metcher, who was born in New Jersey and whose parents came from Germany to the new world. They settled in Henry county, Illinois, at an early day and there Mrs. Neumann was reared. By her marriage she became the mother of eight children: August, who is engaged in well drilling and makes his home at Stockham, Nebraska; Edward, who has been with the Fairmont Creamery Company for the last thirty years at Grand Island, Nebraska; Emlora, the wife of Christian Rath, proprietor of a garage at Sutton, Nebraska; George L., a farmer living at Wolbach, Nebraska; Catherine, the widow of Mack Stephens and a resident of Maywood, Illinois; Ida May, the wife of Louis Esch, a farmer and garage owner; Oscar B., a farmer of Blackfoot, Idaho; and Clarence, who conducts a plumbing business at Sutton. In 1883 Mrs. Neumann was converted and joined the Methodist church and in the following year Mr. Neumann became a member of the same church. She ever afterward lived a consistent Christian life and in that faith passed away April 22, 1920. Mr. Neumann has been equally loyal to the church and very active in its work, doing all in his power to advance its growth and extend its influence.

JOHN F. HAGEY

John F. Hagey of Hamilton county was born in Dixon county, Illinois, December 9, 1871, and was but three years old when his parents removed from that state to Nebraska, settling in Hamilton county. They took up their abode in Hamilton precinct and were among the pioneer residents of this section of the state, bearing their full share in the work of general development and improvement. More extended mention of the father is made in connection with the sketch of his son, George Hagey, on another page of this work.

John F. Hagey was reared under the parental roof and his education was acquired in the common schools. Through the summer months he worked in the fields and through practical experience became acquainted with the best methods of planting and cultivating his tract. He continued upon the old home place until 1904, when he started out in the business world independently, purchasing the farm upon which he now resides, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of good land on section 7, Orville precinct. Here he carried on general farming, cultivating those crops which were best adapted to the soil and climatic conditions here and in addition to the raising of crops he gave much attention to the raising of Duroc Jersey hogs.

Mr. Hagey has been married twice. He first wedded Miss Bertha E. Mattern, who passed away January 9, 1911, and their children are: Harold, nineteen years of age; and Maurice, a lad of ten years. Some time later Mr. Hagey wedded Pearl A. Munson. They are well known in this section of the county, having many friends who esteem them highly. Mr. Hagey has served as school director for two terms, also as school treasurer of the Consolidated School District and the cause of education profits by his stalwart championship. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. His life has always been concentrated upon agricultural interests and the thoroughness with which he has performed his work has brought to him a substantial measure of success and his labors have been an important element in the agricultural development of the county.

J. A. SWIGART

One of the most prominent farmers and stock raisers in Clay county is J. A. Swigart, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1858, a son of John and Hannah (Seaborn) Swigart, both natives of that state, in which they resided until death. The father was a successful farmer and to his marriage nine children were born; three of whom are living: Elizabeth, who is the wife of a Mr. Craig of Roanoke, Virginia; J. A., whose name initiates this review; and John, a farmer of Nuckolls county, where he has resided since 1884. Mr. and Mrs. Swigart were consistent members of the United Brethren church and the father was a staunch supporter of the republican party. J. A. Swigart is descended from an old and honored family, the paternal ancestors having come to this country from Switzerland three hundred years ago.

J. A. Swigart received his education in the district schools of Pennsylvania and after putting his textbooks aside engaged in work in connection with a railroad. In addition to that work he also followed farming and in 1884 came to Nebraska, locating in Nuckolls county and working on farms for a period of three years. In 1889 he settled in Clay county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres at twenty dollars per acre. He has brought his farm to a highly improved state and engages in general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Swigart has been twice married. In 1889 he was wedded to Miss Metta McClians, a native of Illinois, and a daughter of Joshua McClians, who came to Nebraska and located in Nuckolls county, where he acquired a homestead and there resided until death. Two children were born to that union: Ethel, who is the wife of Arthur Dietrickson, a farmer of Marshall township; and Ralph, who is farming with his father. Mrs. Swigart passed away in 1906 and in 1908 our subject was again married, taking Miss May Elwood for his wife. She was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Lyman B. Elwood, who homesteaded the place now owned by Mr. Swigart in 1872. In later life he became financially independent and removed to Clay Center, residing there retired until his death.

Since age conferred upon Mr. Swigart the right of franchise he has given his support to the republican party, in the interests of which he has taken an active part. He is now a member of the school board, on which he has served for years and he is

likewise town assessor. The religious faith of the family is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Swigart's time and energies are concentrated upon his business affairs and he has justly won classification with the representative farmers of Clay county.

JOHN BANKSON

Among the many prominent and successful agriculturists that Sweden has contributed to Nebraska is John Bankson, who was born in that country in 1850. He has come to be widely known throughout Hamilton county as a farmer of great ability and so great has been his success that he is today living retired in Central City, financially independent.

In 1868 John Bankson came to the United States, first locating in Pennsylvania, where he worked at odd jobs for some time. He was fireman in a sawmill there but finding this job and various others not to his liking he decided to come west and as a result located in Hamilton county, Nebraska, on the 28th of June, 1878. He bought one hundred and sixty acres, three-quarters of a mile west of Hordville, about sixty acres of which land was then in cultivation. He had about one thousand dollars with him when he located in the county and out of this sum he purchased up-to-date farm machinery. For six years he made his home in a sod house and then built a frame home. Eighteen years ago Mr. Bankson retired to Merrick county and lived on a small farm near Central City for a few years but in 1915 removed into the town. There he is now residing and has one of the finest homes in Central City. Mr. Bankson is also in possession of three hundred and sixty-four acres of fine land all of which is located in Hamilton county.

In 1873 occurred the marriage of Mr. Bankson and Miss Johanna Nickelson, that event taking place in Pennsylvania. To this union have been born eleven children: Ranold, who is a mail carrier in Oakland, California; Doris Burrows, who is now residing in Berkeley, California; Albert, residing in Hordville; Nancy, at home; Ernest, who is residing at Bayard; Julia Randall, residing in Hordville; Esther, who is residing at home; Seth, living at Bayard; Newton, who is farming the home place in Hamilton county; Amos, who is residing in Bayard; and Evert, at home.

The Bankson family are all consistent members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Bankson is fraternally identified with the Highlander Lodge. He has always been active in civic affairs and for nine years was road supervisor in Hamilton county. The success of Mr. Bankson as an agriculturist in both Merrick and Hamilton counties is readily conceded and he is also widely recognized as a prominent and representative citizen.

ALBERT WEBSTER CLARK

Albert Webster Clark, familiarly known as Bert, was born in Champaign, Illinois, in 1871, coming to Sutton with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. I. N. Clark, in 1872. He graduated from the Sutton high school in 1886 and attended the Nebraska State University for two years. For over thirty years he conducted a most successful

ice business, selling the same in 1918. Every year since Mr. Clark has grown to manhood he has held offices of trust and honor in his home city and county. For eight years he was city treasurer, for eight years he served as councilman and in 1919 he was mayor of Sutton, declining a second nomination. In the county he has the distinction of serving on the county board of supervisors for over twelve years, acting as chairman of the board during the last two years. It was during his last year as chairman that the money and bonds were voted for Clay county's new courthouse at Clay Center. Since 1890 Mr. Clark has been part owner and manager of the Sutton Opera House.

In the Masonic, Odd Fellows and Royal Highlander lodges he has held the high offices. During the World war he was a member of the County Council of Defense and acted on all important patriotic committees. One of the finest homes in the county and the pride of the city is owned by Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Clark. At the present time Mr. Clark is in the insurance and real estate business.

MRS. A. W. CLARK

Mrs. A. W. Clark, nee Mayme Genevieve Wieden, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wieden, was born in Hopkins, Missouri, in 1875, coming to Nebraska with her parents in 1876 and moving to Sutton in 1877, being in the truest meaning a pioneer. With her husband she is frequently consulted as to historical facts about Sutton and vicinity. In 1894 she completed a course in the Sutton high school and immediately assumed the duties of deputy postmaster, which she most efficiently discharged for nine years.

In 1903 Miss Wieden was married to A. W. Clark. Mrs. Clark has a splendid record as a citizen of Sutton, being considered one of the most public-spirited and patriotic workers in the community. Many of the best things of the city were from suggestions and plans of hers and she always has given her time and strength to any worthy cause in religious, social, civic or educational work. For a number of years she was a member of the public library board, being the president at the time of her retirement. In the Eastern Star, Rebekah, Degree of Honor lodges and P. E. O. sisterhood Mrs. Clark has held the highest offices and represented most of them in state and national conventions.

For over a quarter of a century the Congregational church has had active work from this faithful member. At present she is chairman of the board of trustees, president of the Missionary Society and organist of this church, to which both she and her husband belong. During the World war all her time was given in active service as chairman and secretary of Sutton Chapter of the Red Cross and many Junior Red Cross organizations were also started by Mrs. Clark, who went into rural districts giving lectures and instructions for same. Her activities have included service as county chairman of Red Cross Christmas seals for the past three years, Modern Health Crusade work in all schools and effective effort in behalf of the Economy Campaign. Mrs. Clark is the only woman member on the board of directors for the Clay County Fair Association and with her husband enjoys a large acquaintance throughout this part of the state.

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